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BOGACHEV VIEWS U.S. ARGUMENTS AGAINST TEST BAN

LD031918 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1810 GMT 3 Jan 86

["Explosions Instead of Arguments..." -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 3 Dec (TASS) [date as received] -- TASS military observer Vladimir Bogachev writes:

Judging by the reaction of official representatives in Washington to the recent Soviet initiatives, the U.S. Administration likes neither the nuclear explosions moratorium, nor the international system for verifying its observance, nor the resumption of the tripartite talks on the complete and universal banning of nuclear weapons tests that were broken off in 1980.

A simple list of the "arguments" which the White House has put forward recently to justify its refusal of the Soviet offer to end nuclear explosions enables one to draw a conclusion about what meaning the U.S. Administration attaches to the thesis it itself declared on the "need to render nuclear weapons powerless and obsolete."

In August last year, in reply to the Soviet call that the United States should join the Soviet moratorium on all nuclear explosions, the U.S. side announced that "a great deal still has to be done in the sphere of verifying the observance of arms control agreements" before such a moratorium could be introduced and...[TASS elipses] it carried out another nuclear weapons test in Nevada.

After the USSR announced its willingness to take the most decisive steps with regard to monitoring, going so far as on-site verification, the U.S. Administration, evidently realizing that from now on this problem can no longer be over-emphasized as the main obstacle to its participation in an accord, sharply changed its "arguments" in favor of explosions. White House representatives began to assert that solving the verification problem alone is not enough. The United States quickly carried out another nuclear test.

In Washington they declared that the United States allegedly supports the idea of banning nuclear explosions, but that it is only willing to discuss this "when the modernization of the U.S. nuclear capability has been completed." The White House spokesmen were reminded that the whole significance of stopping tests lies precisely in preventing this very "modernization" of nuclear weapons and thus, in decreasing the threat of their being used.

Another "argument" against U.S. acceptance of the Soviet proposals that was hastily concocted also turned out to be without foundation -- the "canard" that the Soviet Union had allegedly carried out more tests than the United States and that the ending of tests would "freeze" Soviet superiority in this field. For it follows even from the official data that has been published in Washington that since the postwar period the United States has carried out at least one-third more nuclear tests than the USSR has. And if one includes the U.S. allies then the figure is 1.5 times greater.

The peoples of the world are right to demand that the U.S. Administration finally end its dangerous game of nudging our planet toward nuclear disaster and that it take up a sensible position on problems of limiting and reducing araments -- including the issue of banning nuclear explosions.

The year 1986 must go down in history as the year of the decline of nuclear explosions.

'PROMISING,' 'CONTRADICTORY' START TO NEW YEAR CITED'

LD052257 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1500 GMT 5 Jan 86

[From the "International Panorama" program presented by Nikolay Shishlin]

[Text] Hello comrades. We are meeting at the beginning of 1986 and it has to be said that the beginning of the year has a promising and, at the same time, contradictory character. Promising, if only by virtue of the New Year congratulations from Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to the people of the United States of America, and correspondingly, the congratulations from Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, to the Soviet people. This was a kind of continuation of the Geneva dialogue between the two leaders.

But this is not the only point. Actually, the exchange of New Year messages was a kind of formulation of the main point on the agenda of world politics for the entire year of 1986. It is an enormous taks: to elevate ourselves above quarrels, to devote all efforts to the search for mutual understanding and trust, and to search for paths leading to disarmament.

It is here that one has to return to the fact that the beginning of the year does, nevertheless, at times appear contradictory. It is, of course, a good thing, when not only in Moscow, but also in Washington, they are declaring that nuclear war must not occur, that there can be no winners in nuclear war. Of course, trust and mutual understanding require sensible talk. But, to an even larger degree they require sensible deeds, sensible actions. Political detente -- its elements are of course alive, they are present in international relations today, in the fabric of these international relations -- it will remain unsteady if there is no military detente. Moreover, political detente itself will be extinguished if we do not manage to find solutions to the problems of reducing the arms race on earth and not allowing the transfer of the arms race into space. This political equation represents a key issue for the year 1986, this equation of survival which has to be taken up by the Soviet Union, the United States, and not only by our countries.

In the opinion of the Soviet Union, no matter how difficult this equation is, it can be solved. So in January the Soviet-U.S. talks in Geneva on nuclear and space weapons are te be resumed. I would like to recall certain steps undertaken by our side in order to find a sensible compromise at the Geneva talks.

First of all, about space. Inasmuch as space is concerned, the Soviet Union unequivocally comes out in favor of space being peaceful and only peaceful. As far as strategic weapons are concerned, the Soviet Union is proposing a 50-percent cut in strategic weapons by both sides. This is only a beginning. Other steps may follow this. As far as medium-range muclear weapons are concerned, the Soviet Union -- which continues to come out in favor of the full liberation of Europe from all kinds of nuclear weapons -- considers it possible to come to an intermediate solution which is exactly balanced with the corresponding armaments of the countries of the West or, to be more precise, with those of the NATO countries.

Of course, it is evidently necessary to also speak about our position on nuclear tests. Recently, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev confirmed that the Soviet Union comes out in favor of freezing all kinds of nuclear weapons and a comprehensive and indefinite halt to testing them under strict international monitoring. At the same time, the Soviet Union is ready, in the very near future, to enter into talks with representatives of Great Britain and the United States in order to find a mutually acceptable solution of this truly vitally important problem.

And what about the United States? The United States talks a lot about its readiness to seek solutions to the issues on strategic and medium-range weapons, but as for SDI, the Strategic Defense Initiative, the plans to transfer the arms race into space, they generally consider it impossible to speak about this in terms of the creation of a kind of armament. They believe that SDI -- the "star wars" plans -- generally do not come within the category of armaments. But if we exclude this element -- that of not allowing the transfer of the arms race into space -- if we exclude this from the equation of survival, then the whole equation becomes insoluble. This is, of course, a very serious problem for the New Year.

If one also looks closely at the series of U.S. actions on the eve of 1986, then this, too, is quite indicative. As you remember, on 28 December the United States carried out a regular test of a nuclear charge; a test connected with work within the SDI framework. At the close of the year they completed the siting of 108 Pershing 2 missiles on the territory of a number of West European states -- strictly speaking, on the territory of West Germany. They also established 32 cruise missile batteries in Western Europe. It is significant that, with the sanction of the White House, a report was published last December in the United States about imaginary violations of the ABM and SALT II treaties by the Soviet Union. The United States always starts talking about violations of treaties of one kind or another by the Soviet Union when they themselves want to sin, when they want to avoid their obligations.

Through its deeds the Soviet Union affirms a new approach to international affairs, an approach which takes into account not only the interests of its own security, but also the security interests of its partners and the security interests of the world community as a whole.

As far as the United States is concerned, at the level of its actions, at the level of its deeds, the United States is not demonstrating such an approach. I would like to recall certain simple truth: Foreign policy is formed in many ways under the influence of domestic policy, it reflects the internal interests of whichever state. Though, of course, in its own turn, international politics creates problems for these countries. These simple and important truths are in their own way reflected in contemporary international life and in the present U.S. reality.

'POSITIVE RESULTS' POSSIBLE AT FUTURE CDE TALKS

Grinevskiy Views Prospects

LD031852 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 3 Jan 86

[Statement by Oleg Alekseyevich Grinevskiy, roving ambassador and head of the Soviet delegation at the Stockholm Conference on Confidence-Building Measures and Security and Disarmament in Europe (CDE); from the "Vremya" newscast;]

[Text] The year that has just begun will be a decisive year for the Stockholm conference. The first stage will be completed this fall. Therefore, it's natural that many people are asking how the conference is going and what is happening there. Practically everyone who is following its work is now coming to the conclusion that recently -- especially since the summit meetings in Paris and Geneva -- the conference has been able to move forward. First, agreement has been achieved on a range of questions that would outline the framework for possible accords. Among them are: The nonuse of force, the notification and limitation of major military exercises, the exchange of annual plans notifying military activity, and other questions raised in the joint initiatives by the socialist countries. Secondly, working machinery has been created for drawing up such accords. In general, the conference is on the point of agreeing on the text of a final document.

Of course, all these measures do not solve the fundamental problems of European security and disarmament, but they could become safety nets as it were, against the eruption of armed conflict in Europe. That is their essential significance especially in the present tense situation.

It goes without saying that many unsolved problems remain at the conference and some of them are important. It is therefore necessary to energetically search for a way to resolve them. As Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev recently said: We must roll up our shirt sleeves. The Soviet delegation is ready for this work. Positive results can be achieved in Stockholm if the NATO countries give up their hopeless expectations of using the talks to gain one-sided advantages.

Pace of Progress 'Accelerated'

PM051820 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Jan 86 Morning Edition p 5

[Own correspondent A. Sychev dispatch: "To Vindicate Mankind's Hopes"]

[Text] Stockholm -- The latest session of the Conference on Confidence-Building and Security Measures and Disarmament in Europe which is under way in Stockholm has ended. How did it go? The meeting between M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and U.S. President R. Reagan in Geneva had a great impact on the conference. According to many representatives, the conference has become more dynamic and the pace of its progress toward a fruitful conclusion has accelerated noticeably.

This is reflected primarily in the fact that unofficial, meaningful talks have opened on a range of issues which could provide the outline of a future document. These issues comprise the development of the principle of the nonuse of force, notification of major military exercises and exchanges of obsevers, and reduction of the scale and submission of annual plans of military activities which are subject to notification. Jointly with all the delegations, coordinators elected form four neutral states -- Austria, Finland, Sweden, and Switzerland -- have embarked on drafing the final document.

At the same session, the neutral and nonaligned countries submitted a document for discussion by the conference participants. The proposal it contains are, in their view, designed to contribute to a deepening of the talks.

It can be said without exaggeration that the main spheres of the Stockholm conference's work have been determined by the enterprising stance of the socialist countries. Their joint proposal that a treaty be concluded on the mutual nonuse of military force and maintenance of relations of peace has become part and parcel of the conference agenda. The pressing need to introduce this principle into the practice of international relations is now recognized by most of the participants in the talks. Even many NATO countries favor its development and transformation into an immutable norm of states' conduct.

During the discussion the delegation form Sweden, Cyprus, Italy, Denmark, and a number of other states put forward interesting ideas aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of this most important international obligation.

Active discussion continued on the socialist countries' proposals pertaining to confidence-building measures in the military sphere -- the notification of major ground force, air force, and naval exercises, troop shipments, and limitation of the scale of exercises. The explosive situation in the world demands that the barriers created by mistrust and hostility between states be dimantled.

Under these conditions it is essential that the confidence-building measures encompass all military activities on the territory of Europe and in the adjoining air and sea basins.

The conference's 2 years of work and the results of the present session confirm the conclusion that the European forum has entered a qualitatively new phase. Nonetheless, old ills and attempts to hamper progress, to obtain unilateral advantages, still complicate the conference proceedings.

Despite the existing accord to contribute to the successful conclusion of the Stockholm conference, the United States and some of its closest allies have taken no specific steps. While acknowledging the importance of the principle of the nonuse of force in its statements, the U.S delegation is in practice trying to convince participants that there is no need "to get bogged down in details," that it would be sufficient merely to affirm without amendment the relevant articles of the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act.

You get the impression that the United States and certain NATO countries are stubbornly trying not to notice the cardinal changes in the international situation which demand that this principle be further developed and enshrined in treaty form.

Another sphere of active U.S. opposition of late is the question of notification of major militry exercises. Here the U.S. delegation has made an outright attempt to distort the mandate of the conference by declaring that the air force and navy are outside its sphere of competence and proposing that the talks concentrate exclusively on the activities of ground forces.

Retaining only one aspect of military activities in the field of vision -- namely the ground forces, to which confidence-building measures already apply and which merely need to be further developed -- is illogical, to say the least.

Representatives of a number of countries cited convincing examples of the threat emanating from air and naval forces. Malta's representative, Ambassador V. Gauci, declared at one of the sittings that his country had never been attacked from land, but only from sea or air and that it was extraordinarily important for Malta to know the aims of major air and naval exercises and when and where they would be held. Why should the conference not take the interests of these countries into account?

Assessing the results of the session which has just ended, special envoy O.A. Grinevskiy, the leader of the Soviet delegation, described the beginning of businesslike talks, including the drafting stage, as one of the conference's important achievements which will, of course, create preconditions for an intensified quest for mutually acceptable accords. Doubtless, the questions discussed in Stockholm are complex. But they can be resolved, provided political will is shown and the principles of equality, balance, and identical respect for the security interests of the Stockholm conference participant states are abided by.

WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

LD051800 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1230 GMT 5 Jan 86

["International Observers Roundtable" program with Rudolf Georgiyevich Kolchanov, deputy editor-in-chief of TRUD; Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Lebedev, deputy editor-in chief of the magazine WORLD ECONOMY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS; and Aleksandr Vladimirovich Zholkver, political observer for central television and All-Union Radio.]

U.S.-Soviet Summit

[Text] [Zholkver] Hello, Comrades! In the first few days of the new year it is customary to sum up the results of the past year and outline the prospects for the future. In this connection, the new year addresses by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and President Reagan have received the very widest response throughout the world. They were viewed first and foremost as a good omen for a year which has been declared International Peace Year. Here, for example, is the opinion of a man who is accustomed, through his job, to looking into the future, the well-known U.S. science fiction writer Isaac Asimov. He considers the Soviet-U.S. summit in Geneva to have been the most portentous event of the old year, and expresses the hope that in the new year the United States and the USSR will be able to achieve a mutually acceptable agreement aimed at curbing the arms race on earth and preventing it from spreading into space. What is your opinion, Rudolf Georgiyevich?

[Kolchanov] I think that both we journalists and people who are perhaps not involved via their daily work in foreign policy problems should agree with that science fiction writer that the Geneva meeting really was the most important event of the past year in the foreign policy sphere, and I am very happy that I had occasion to be present there and write about that historic event. On the eve of the meeting, the question arose in the minds not only of politicians and journalists, but also of millions of other people, as to what would be the result of the meeting. We in the press center, where there were about 4,000 journalists, also made our own forecasts, of course, but we were closer to the event, so that on the very first day after the meeting between Comrade Gorbachev and President Reagan ended we were able to say immediately that this event, without doubt, had positive results. These were announced in concrete terms when the joint statement was read out in the press center. The sides assumed very important pledges: the pledge not to start nuclear or any other wars between each other; the pledge not to strive for military superiority; the pledge to promote the Geneva talks and to further the Stockholm conference; the pledge to further the process of chemical disarmament; and so forth. In a word, pledges that are extremely important and extremely substantial, and if you consider that they were assumed on behalf of two great powers, then the weighty nature of those pledges comes across all the greater. But any pledges on paper alone remain paper pledges, so the most important thing, as Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev stressed more than once in his subsequent statements, is how those pledges will be carried out in concrete practice.

[Zholkver] Aleksandr Aleksandrovich, you weren't in Geneva, but I know that your magazine has been making a profound analysis both of what happened in Geneva and how things developed after that. What would you say about this?

SDI Program

[Lebedev] Of course the old year did contain a great many things to its credit on the international politics side, for example.

But nonetheless those positive things should not conceal from us the host of alarming phenomena which unfortunately have become confirmed even since the Geneva meeting, and the pledges and fine words that Rudolf Georgiyevich was talking about must be backed up by action so that the credit side, that capital which has begun to build up as a result of the Geneva summit, really is developed in genuine relaxation of international tension and the development of the broadest possible cooperation. But what do we see in practice? As far as our country is concerned, and our listeners are quite well informed about this, it has kept strictly to its word about unilaterally introducing a moratorium on all nuclear explosions. And what do we see on the part of our U.S. partners? Just recently another underground nuclear explosion was carried out in Nevada, the purpose of which is quite evident -- namely to test a nuclear device necessary for an X-ray laser installation; and that installation in turn is necessary for the deployment [razvertyvaniye] in space of combat strike systems.

[Kolchanov] Well, I'll interrupt you here, Aleksandr Aleksandrovich. On 13 September the United States destroyed an artificial earth satellite by means of combat facilities for the first time, and within the framework of development [racrabotka] of the SDI program contracts have been signed with 800 firms of the most varied kind. In the main these are military firms, so it is obvious what it is about.

[Lebedev] So when I was listening, for example, to the new year greeting from President Ronald Reagan, for all one's desire somehow to wholeheartedly accept the sincerity of the words addressed to our people, a host of doubts arose, you know, over a whole number of statements in that greeting, in particular the very long tirade, as I could call it, about the President's dream to move toward the elimination of nuclear weapons by means of the development of so-called defensive systems. Well, what defensive systems these could be I don't know, apart from the name of course -- and SDI is the so-called Strategic Defense Initiative -- when it is clearly a matter of combining the "star wars" plans with the development of offensive nuclear weapons, both strategic weapons and medium-range missiles which are being intensively deployed near our borders.

[Zholkver] You have raised a very important aspect of this problem, because when they proclaim about SDI and the "star wars" program, they try to stress that it is different from everything that has come before and that it is not, they say, a nuclear program. But in fact the underground test in Nevada, and the planned allocations for the further expansion of nuclear weapons production in the budget for the new year, 1986, and in the U.S. budget for 1987 that is already being drawn up disprove this. And for me this stood out when I compared both new year addresses. One one hand there is the genuinely concrete peaceableness of the Soviet Union which is backed up by action -- the moratorium on nuclear tests that you have already mentioned, Aleksandr Aleksandrovich, the pledge by the Soviet Union not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, our coming out in favor of an immediate freeze on nuclear weapons and a complete ban without time limit on nuclear tests together with the most effective system of monitoring them, our readiness to sit down again at the table for trilateral talks with representatives of the United States and Great Britain in order to find a mutually acceptable solution to this problem, and last, but not least, our proposal that the nuclear systems of the Soviet Union and the United States be reduced by a half. From the U.S. President I have not seen such concrete action, but on the other hand one cannot but note that literally on the eve of the new year the world community, by which I mean the UN General Assembly, spoke out on one hand in favor of preventing the arms race in space, and on the other hand against the continuation of nuclear weapons tests.

[Kolchanov] One hundred and fifty-one states voted for the prevention of an arms race in space including, naturally, the Soviet Union, while the United States abstained.

[Zholkver] Yes, and on the question of nuclear tests only three states voted against -- the United States, Britain, and France.

[Kolchanov] And, finally, the freezing of nuclear weapons: the United States and the NATO countries voted against, and 120 countries, including of course the Soviet Union, voted in favor.

[Lebedev] And continuing that idea of comparing the words and deeds of each side, I should like to add a few facts to what you have already said. I started to speak about the intensive deployment of U.S. medium-range missiles. According to the figures as of 31 December, the number of U.S. medium-range missiles, in other words Pershing and cruise missiles, deployed in Western Europe, was 236, including all 108 Pershing-2 missiles. And that is at the same time that the Soviet Union is going in for the dismantling of its missile installations. And what I would like to stress is that although the chief responsibility for these developments is borne by the United States, their closest allies bear some of the blame, too, because with regard to the notorious SDI, Great Britain and the Federal Republic of Germany have been ledby the nose and have taken a step which far from leads to detente.

[Zholkver] You know, I would like to add to this, if you like, the quite important moral aspect, both in regard to the United States and to its allies. Let's start with its allies, perhaps. Well, that nuclear explosion at the proving ground in the state of Nevada which you, Aleksandr Aleksandrovich, spoke about, caused universal indignation. What was the position of the FRG Government? It was asked about Bonn's attitude to this explosion. In reply, an official government spokesman stated that insofar as, he said, the FRG is a country which does not possess its own nuclear weapon -- almost with regret, it sounded -- it neither condemns nor welcomes the fact that the United States has carried out another nuclear explosion. The FRG Government, its spokesman stated, has no position on this question.

Human Rights

[Kolchanov] That's a perfectly immoral position, in my view, it need hardly be said. Aleksandr Vladimirovich, you have already touched upon Reagan's new year address to the people of the Soviet Union, and insofar as we have started to speak about moral aspects, I would also like to say a few words about the moral side, also connected with what Ronald Reagan said about a humane attitude to man, and so on. The hypocrisy of it!

I would also like to go back to the recent UN General Assembly session. Very important resolutions concerning human rights were adopted there, and what was the U.S. position there? I'll tell you: On the need to take effective measures against the Nazi, fascist, neofascist activity and all other forms of totalitarian ideology and practice, based on racial intolerance, hatred and terror -- that was how it was spelled out in the resolution -- and who was in favor? One hundred and twenty-one countries, including the Soviet Union. And who against? The United States and Israel. That was on human rights. Take another resolution on the liquidation of all forms of racial discrimination: Why not here show themselves to be a true champion of human rights? One hundred and twenty-nine in favor, including the USSR. Who was against? Just one country, the United States. The next resolution was the significance of a universal implementation of the right of peoples to self-determination and the speediest granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observation of human rights. On every line we see human rights and rights of peoples. And what was the reaction of the United States? One hundred and eighteen in favor, including the USSR; against, 17, including the United States. Where is this worship of man which Reagan speaks about, and where are real deeds?

[Zholkver] Indeed, first and foremost, one should defend one of man's most important rights, man's right to live, the right not to permit war. And it is not by chance that one of America's, I would say, most important political experts such as George Kennan, an honorary professor of the Institute of Advanced Study at Princeton, contributed a long article in the latest issue of the leading U.S. foreign-policy magazine FOREIGN AFFAIRS entitled: "The United States: Morals and Foreign Policy." He states plainly that the U.S. Government and policy should have some moral standards. Such a great power must have morals in its policy. So far, unfortunately, this has not been evident. And, it must be said here that journalists, and the American people themselves, are drawing attention to this. Thus, Flora Lewis, the well-known observer, wrote an article for the NEW YORK TIMES. She writes plainly that the Soviet Union exists, there is no getting away from it, the fact cannot be ignored, and the United States has to deal with the Soviet Union. And on what basis? And here the journalist notes that the Russians and the Americans have a number of fundamental interests which coincide. The most obvious common interest is the prevention of war, especially a nuclear war. This is the moral aspect of this problem. It seems to me that questions of morality and amorality in politics are directly connected with a whole number of so-called regional problems. A great deal can be traced here when determining what purpose a policy serves, whether its purpose is to localize regional conflicts or to reduce tension, or, on the other hand, to whip them up.

Central American Situation

Let's take, for example, the situation in Central America. A meeting has just been held between the President of the United States and the President of Mexico. A lot of attention was focused on Central American questions, but when we speak about this, one cannot fail to recall here the blatant policy of terrorism which the United States is conducting with regard to Nicaragua. Just look at the data which has been cited by the Nicaraguan leaders when referring to the events of the past year. Last year, over 1,000 people were killed in Nicaragua. Over the past 5 years 11,000 have been killed. If you compare that figure with the population of the United States, this would mean that, say, over 700,000 Americans would have been killed in 5 years. That is, three times as many as the number of Americans who died in World War II. This is the sort of damage that has been inflicted on Nicaragua, and I have not even spoken about material damage.

[Kolchanov] Yes, against the background of such human losses one need hardly speak about material damage. But if you analyze U.S. policy vis-a-vis the countries of Latin America and other regions, dangerous, fervid regions, I think one could write a whole scientific work on this subject. There would be: support for the aggressor, direct terrorism, terrorism through middlemen, and so on.

[Zholkver] You spoke about middlemen, but if you take a region like the Near East, then clearly there is Israel which is a tool of the United States, and its aggressive activities against its closest and its more distant neighboring Arab states. True, you will know that Washington and Tel Aviv have fallen out lately since it became known that Israel has been engaged in espionage even on the territory of the United States itself. Incidentally, some U.S. magazines have called the past year in the United States the year of the spies. But, in any event, this was just a little tiff which happened at the end of the year in connection with the arrest of an Israeli spy in the United States and it is not preventing them from engaging in joint aggressive policy in the Near East.

Rome, Vienna Attacks

[Lebedev] That is, for example, the campaign of blackmail and threats which is now resounding against Libya and other Arab states and the situation is literally becoming more aggravated in front of one's eyes.

There is no doubt about it, those acts of terrorism which were committed in Vienna and Rome naturally evoke condemnation, and, incidentally, our country -- we have mentioned several times the latest UN General Assembly session -- voted in favor of a resolution condemning such actions. But this is obviously now being used as a pretext to prepare the ground for committing acts of, well, we may call it state terrorism for that's what it is, essentially direct acts of aggression against the Arab states.

CEMA Comprehensive Program

[Zholkver] Well, the first half of our discussion was devoted to the results of foreign policy of the past year, and now let us dwell on some of its economic and social aspects. As far as the socialist countries are concerned, the past year was marked by truly a most important event, the signing of a comprehensive program of scientific-technical progress between the CEMA member-countries up to the year 2000.

[Kolchanov] In short, the CEMA program envisages five priority directions. These are the application of electronics in the economy, integrated automation, the development of nuclear power engineering, the creation and production of new types of materials, the accelerated development of technology and biotechnology. This is a coordinated policy directed toward accelerating scientific-technical progress in all countries of the socialist community.

[Zholkver] I would also like to say that right now, literally since the very first days of the new year, the practical implementation of this program has been set in motion. And here is just one example. In Poland, at the Katowice Metallurgical Combine, one of the largest metallurgical combines in Poland, a new workshop has started up. The shop was built with technical assistance from the Soviet Union and will produce about 250,000 tons of enhanced quality rails annually. By the way, a significant proportion of the output is designed for export to our country. At the same time at another metallurgical works, the Pokoj works in the town of Ruda Slaska, a new workshop has also been commissioned and it was built with technical assistance from the Soviet Union.

[Kolchanov] Yes, all the five priority directions are very specific, and it is important to stress that they have been drawn up thoroughly.

Cuba-USSR Relations

[Zholkver] I think it would be most appropriate -- since our conversation is taking place soon after 1 January, after Cuba's national holiday -- to note the close cooperation between our state and the Cuban Republic.

[Lebedev] Here one must not forget, I believe, and it is worth stressing once again, that these successes and the progress achieved by Cuba with regard to social and also economic matters, serve as an example of the effectiveness of this path for many other countries in Latin America. And so, despite all efforts by the United States these successes are recognized not only by the popular masses but by governments. It is very typical that in the past year a Cuban representative was elected president of the Pan-American economic system, a body uniting countries in Latin America. Cuba was accepted as a member of the Latin American parliament so that it is obvious that nothing is coming out of the attempts to isolate Cuba on the international scene. By the way, Uruguay recently established diplomatic relations with Cuba and it has become a spokesman, so to speak, for the mood of Latin American states in connection with the colossal debts which it is impossible to pay back and which are a heavy burden on the shoulders of the peoples, of the working masses of these countries.

W. Europe Unemployment

[Zholkver] You have already touched on one of the very acute problems of the world of capital, the problem of debt. But how are things in the developed capitalist countries themselves? It seems to me that developments in the Common Market in Western Europe are an indicator. Well the Common Market now has something to celebrate: From 1 January this year the Ten has turned into the Dozen. Spain and Portugal have joined the Common Market. Well, what is the forecast of the commission of the West European market for 1986? One index here is showing a manifest tendency not toward reduction, but an increase -- this is the level of unemployment. This past year it exceeded 11 percent in Western Europe and a similar trend is forecast for the coming year. What is more, in a number of countries, in Britain, Belgium, and the Netherlands, for example, unemployment is expected to reach a level greatly in excess of 11 percent.

[Lebedev] Yes, about 13 million throughout the EEC, according to press reports.

[Zholkver] And now there will probably be another 3 million to add, because there are 3 million unemployed in Spain and Portugal.

[Kolchanov] Of course, one has to be very careful with official figures. In Britain, for example, since 1979 the very system for calculating unemployment has been amended 13 times. And now the official unemployment is 3.2 million.

[Lebedev] The trade unions give a different figure. Yes, they give a different figure. According to some semiofficial figures another million has to be added and not even the trade unions but the shadow secretary of state for employment says that the figure is now about 5 million. This greater than during the times of the bitter depression in the thirties. The very same picture can be seen in other countries: manipulation of the figures, the disregarding of certain categories of unemployed, and therefore the figures are significantly higher than those that we have been discussing.

[Zholkver] But the important thing here is the trend. It was not by chance that Breit, Chairman of the German Trade Union Federation, stated in this new year speech that the main task of West German trade unions in 1986 remains as before the struggle against mass unemployment which increased yet a little more in the closing year. It is true that I saw a very original way of reducing unemployment present in the FRG a little. According to figures from the West German Ministry of Defense, approximately a third of the conscripts going into the Bundeswehr right now are young unemployed men. And the Ministry of Defense also states the following, that military service allows the unemployed to use this time purposefully. And so there is also this method of getting rid of unemployment.

[Kolchanov] I would like to draw historical parallels here. They are always dangerous, but you remember, Aleksandr Vladimirovich, the 6 million unemployed in 1933 in fascist Germany, and the 6 million who perished in fascist Germany as a result of World War II. The parallels are albeit far apart, but they speak volumes.

U.S. Foreign Trade Deficit

[Zolkver] I think that it would be incorrect, however, if in talking about economic matters we touched only on the countries of Western Europe and said nothing about the situation in the United States itself. I took note of this report just as we came into the new year, that the U.S. foreign trade deficit reached $13.5 billion in November and already over the first 11 months the record foreign trade deficit for the whole of the previous year was exceeded.

Over 11 months alone the deficit was already just over $123 billion. I think that this does not testify to the U.S. economy being in a good state of health.

[Lebedev] By the way, Aleksandr Vladimirovich, we have already talked about the debts of developing countries but meanwhile, however paradoxical it may seem, the United States is also turning into a debtor country. In 1985 this U.S. debt amounted to $150 billion. By the way, it is not usual to mention Japan alongside countries whose economies are on the decline, but, you know, there isn't a miracle going on there either. At the end of last year Japan, which was considered relatively successful from the very point of view of unemployment, was forced to admit that the number of unemployed there has reached approximately 1.6 million people.

U.S. Military Budget

[Kolchanov] But the main reason for what we are talking about now is of course the huge spending on armaments. Millions have already been replaced by billions and they are being supplanted by trillions if we recall the U.S. military budget. In connection with this, I would like to cite some UN figures on how the huge material resources are spent so recklessly on this planet at the fault of capitalist countries and imperialist forces. Two billion people on earth do not have supplies of clean drinking water and so they are susceptible to various infectious diseases. One and a half billion do not have medical services, a billion live in conditions of extreme poverty, 800 million adults are illiterate, 250 million children are deprived of the opportunity of going to school, 450 million people suffer from chronic malnutrition. And as a backcloth to these tragic figures, we see the sharp contrast between the foreign policy line of the Soviet Union and of other socialist countries and the foreign policy line of capitalist countries and primarily of the United States.

[Zholkver] Yes, for us, for our country, the new year is a year of the new 12th 5-Year Plan, a year of new peaceful achievements. We have already said that this year has been declared a year of peace by the United Nations. We in the Soviet Union, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev said in his new year address, stand in favor of this year of peace becoming a peaceful decade, of mankind entering the 21st century in conditions of peace, trust, and cooperation. With this we close our conversation. Thank you comrades for taking part, and thank you listeners for your attention.

SHISHLIN STRESSES NEED FOR GLOBAL COOPERATION

LD060527 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1500 GMT 5 Jan 86

[From the "International Panorama" program presented by Nikolay Shishlin]

[Text] A great deal in 1986 is going to depend upon the state of Soviet-U.S. relations and the way they develop. And we have an obligation to clearly understand the fact that the extent of the differences, the depth of the differences that divide our two countries, is great. But our countries do have common interests, too, such as the interest in surviving, given the fact that in the nuclear age we can only survive or perish together. But what I have just said certainly does not mean that the rest of the world's countries are doomed as a consequence to playing the parts of extras in world politics, the parts of passive observers of the way the Soviet-U.S. dialogue shapes up or the way that Soviet-U.S. confrontation proceeds. The independent voice of every country is a precious thing for present-day international relations, and in this connection I would like to recall the initiative of the famous six states -- India, Argentina, Tanzania, Greece, Sweden, and Canada. What is noteworthy is not just the fact that these six countries have by themselves put forward the idea of freezing nuclear tests and freezing the production of nuclear armaments.

What is noteworthy too, it seems to me, is the fact that these six countries, which hold different views, which have different interests, have been able to speak the same language, the language of reason and peace. And there is no need to doubt that 1986 will be rich in dialogue between countries with different social systems. At any rate, as far as the Soviet Union is concerned, it has a vast program for deepening mutual links not just with its friends; not just with all the socialist countries, but with the developed capitalist states, and with the members of the Nonaligned Movement. Today's world, as never before, of course, needs the widest international cooperation and the voice of every country in favor of peace is of substantial significance. And not one single idea expressed in the name of asserting peace, in the name of removing the military danger, must be allowed to be lost.

Mankind today is faced with global problems which have, perhaps, a similar degree of urgency as the problem of preserving peace. There are many of them. There is the problem of the protection of the environment, or rather of rescuing it; there is the exploration of space; the mastery of the wealth of the oceans of the world; the development of new sources of energy; the conquering of serious illnesses, and of course, the conquest of famine. The fact that millions upon millions of people in vast areas of the globe are now experiencing severe need and the fact that every day -- literally every day -- tens of thousands of people die of starvation must be not just a common source of pain for all people but the subject of common concern by all states. This is part, particularly so in view of the fact that in the current state of our knowledge, with current technologies, with current technical possibilities, the problem of famine is undoubtedly one that can be solved.

TASKS OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE YEAR VIEWED

LD041825 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 4 Jan 86

[Viktor Levin commentary]

[Text] The WPC has announced the start of a mass campaign within the framework of the International Year of Peace proclaimed by the UN General Assembly. WPC President Romesh Chandra has appealed to millions of people in various countries to double their efforts in order to achieve Washington's rejection of its "star wars" plans and the U.S. adherence to the moratorium on carrying out nuclear blasts announced by the Soviet Union. I shall ask my colleague, Viktor Levin, to comment on this report.

When the UN General Assembly adopted the decision to proclaim 1986 an International Year of Peace, it appealed to all peoples to join in the UN resolute efforts in defense of the cause of peace and the future of all mankind. The struggle for peace and international security, as the declaration adopted unanimously at the 40th session of the UN General Assembly points out in particular, demands constant and positive actions from states and peoples aimed at preventing war, respecting the principle of the nonuse of force, measures on confidence-building, disarmament, and preserving space for peaceful aims.

An appeal for energetic action is also contained in the message of UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, on the occasion of the start of the International Year of Peace, and in essence, this is also the subject of the WPC's appeal. Such an approach is absolutely right. It is not enough just to proclaim the year which has begun an International Year of Peace; of course, that is important, but the proclamation itself is viewed by the planet's peace-loving forces as a first step, as an appeal to action. The task resides in getting this year to enter history as a year of peace not only in name, but also in content. Is this realistic? Of course it is.

The past year has given an impetus to hope for an improvement in the international political climate. The Geneva meeting between CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan is justly looked upon by the international community as a step in the right direction, as an extremely necessary resumption of the Soviet-U.S. dialogue at summit level. The fact that, by mutual accord, the general secretary of the CPSU addressed the American people with a New Year's greeting, and the U.S. President greeted the Soviet people, was welcomed. I repeat: This is a gratifying circumstance. But if one is to delve into the essence of those mutual New Year's greetings, it will become clear that, in order to fill the spirit of Geneva with material substance, a hard road has yet to be travelled.

Currently, there is the particular acuteness of the issue of the inadmissibility of spreading the arms race to space. The Soviet Union's position on this issue is totally clear: We are ready to take on any obligations in this respect. As regards the United States -- and President Reagan's New Year speech showed this in particular -- it is stubbornly engaged in implementing its "star wars" program, covering it with the camouflage-net of the Strategic Defense Initiative.

Another acute issue is the end of the arms race on earth. Here also the Soviet Union is not only setting forth its position clearly, but is also undertaking concrete actions. What I have in mind is the moratorium on nuclear explosions established by our country. The essence of this action consists in putting an end to the perfection of nuclear weapons and the testing of accumulated stockpiles. Consequently, the moratorium is a concrete and very weighty step on the path to ending the arms race. In addition, in order to make this step, nothing is needed, in essence, beyond good will. However, here also we come up against the negative position of the United States.

It is not difficult to imagine the significance that the U.S. rejection of its "star wars" plans and joining the Soviet moratorium on carrying out nuclear blasts would have. This alone would give grounds for saying that 1986 had really become a year of peace. Therefore, the peace champions represented by the WPC are appealing for a concentration of effort on the struggle to solve the cited problems.

There are more than enough peace declarations being made these days; there are also good words to be heard from Washington. This is reassuring, inasmuch as quite recently they spoke quite differently there, and called the Soviet Union an empire of evil. The change in tone can be entered on the credit side of peace. But nevertheless, an account of full value can only be given on the basis of real deeds. The Soviet Union is demonstrating precisely such deeds, and awaits the same from the United States. The International Year of Peace can and must become a year of real consolidation of peace.

THREAT OF U.S. MILITARY ACTION AGAINST LIBYA GROWS

Military Actions Studied

LD031405 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1130 GMT 3 Jan 86

[Text] As is reported by the ABC television company, the Reagan administration is exceptionally seriously examining the possibility of military actions against Libya. Citing military sources, the television company notes that the range of possible actions goes from supporting military actions by Israel to bombing individual targets in Libya by B-52B bombers. The bombers would make direct flights from U.S. territory without landing. The possibility is also being studied of sending the aircraft carrier "Coral Sea," which is at anchor in Naples, escorted by other ships tomorrow to conduct maneuvers in the Gulf of Sidra off the coast of Libya.

West European Support Lacking

LD032013 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 3 Jan 86

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Summary] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has held a news conference in Tripoli, stressing determination to ward off Washington and Tel Aviv's aggressive intrigues and demanding the withdrawal of the U.S. 6th Fleet from the Mediterranean. No U.S. threats will force Libya to renounce its support of the Palestinian cause.

ABC says U.S. officials are seriously considering military action against Libya -- from supporting an Israeli invasion to actually bombing targets on Libyan soil. The aircraft carrier "Coral Sea," along with other ships, is expected to carry out maneuvers off Libya. THE NEW YORK TIMES notes official U.S. displeasure over West European countries' unwillingness to support preparations for military action against Libya.

Military Preparations Intensify

LD040726 Moscow TASS in English 0720 GMT 4 Jan 86

[Text] New York, January 4 TASS -- The United States is actively intensifying military preparations in proximity to the borders of Libya.

The American television company ABC reports, quoting what it called "competent sources" in the Pentagon, that a squadron of U.S. radioelectronic surveillance planes EA-6B has been secretly moved from Washington State to Sigonella NATO Air Force Base in Sicily. It will be subordinated to the commander of an aircraft carrier group led by the aircraft carrier Coral Sea which is now heading for the Libyan coast.

According to American press reports, the Pentagon traditionally assigns a very important role to the planes of that type in preparing an invasion of one or another country. This is explained by the fact that such planes can generate strong electronic jamming of the early warning systems of an enemy and thus ensure the secrecy and unexpectedness of an attack. According to ABC, in taking the decision to move an additional squadron of EA-6B planes to the Mediterranean region, U.S. military took account of the fact that if the Coral Sea is ordered to attack Libya it will definitely need more such planes tan it carries aboard.

The crews of the aircraft carrier America, the battleship Iowa and eight of their escort ships, stationed in Norfolk, Virginia, were also put on alert. According to the ABC, they are ready to leave the port any moment.

NSC Meeting Held on Libya

LD040948 Moscow TASS in English 0933 GMT 4 Jan 86

[Text] Washington, January 4 TASS -- According to THE WASHINGTON POST, a meeting of the National Security Council of the United States is to be held today. The main subject to be considered is Washington's policy toward Libya. As well-informed officials say, the question of "combat ships of the U.S. Navy" will possibly be discussed during the meeting.

According to a statement of the Pentagon, the aircraft carrier "Coral Sea" accompanied by escort ships is heading for the area of the Mediterranean Sea which is in proximity to the Libyan coasts. In addition to that, according to THE NEW YORK TIMES, the aircraft carrier "America" and the battleship "Iowa," stationed in Norfolk, received instructions to be ready to leave the port within 72 hours after receiving the order.

U.S. Preparing for Intervention

LD041634 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1225 GMT 4 Jan 86

[Text] Washington, 4 Jan (TASS) -- The United States has set a course for preparing a widescale interventionist act against sovereign Libya. According to a CBS television report, on Friday morning the aircraft carrier Coral Sea left the port of Naples, and in Norfolk, Virginia, preparations are under way for the aircraft carrier America and battleship Iowa to put to sea. U.S. naval aircraft equipped with radar and communication gear have also been urgently redeployed to this area. Representatives of the U.S. war department [as received] do not include the possibility of the use of U.S. naval aircraft stationed on British territory for delivering a strike against Libya.

The preparation for armed intervention against the sovereign state is being masked by lofty phrases about "the necessity for the fight against terrorism." The assertions sound particularly hypocritical since it is precisely the United States itself which is conducting a policy of state terrorism with regard to Libya. Recently reports have filtered onto the pages of the U.S. press about the fact that the CIA carried out a secret operation directed at removing the present Libyan Government from power. In essence having officially confirmed the fact that such an act of state terrorism had been carried out, the White House immediately saw that an investigation was conducted on the "unsanctioned divulgence of secret intelligence information."

The U.S. policy of military blackmail and threats addressed to Libya is accompanied by attempts to suffocate this country economically. As THE WASHINGTON POST recalls, in November of last year President Reagan imposed a ban on the import of Libyan oil to the United States. CBS notes that the U.S. State Department for many years has been exerting pressure upon American specialists working in Libya, demanding that they leave the territory of this country. The administration is also persistently trying to involve its West European allies in the "crusade" against Libya. However, the demands to impose "international sanctions" toward Tripoli, which are resounding from across the ocean, have been met without enthusiasm in the capitals of European countries. THE WASHINGTON POST notes that the unwillingness of the governments of European countries to join in the anti-Libyan campaign is to be explained in the first place by the fact that many of them maintain trade and economic relations with Libya.

Military Details Options

LD051113 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0700 GMT 5 Jan 86

[Vladimir Gerasichev report from the United States]

[Text] Today's U.S. papers are full of menacing headlines and articles setting out the various forms that military operations by the United States and Israel against Libya might take. In the Mediterranean, an iron fist of American warships is once again being knocked together. NEWSDAY reports that the aircraft carrier America will evidently be given the order to cross the Atlantic and join the aircraft carrier Coral Sea in the Mediterranean. High-ranking representatives of the U.S. Administration are saying bluntly that they do not exclude the possibility of combat use of the Pentagon's naval units; while the generals -- if television and newspaper reports are to be believed -- have offered the White House a choice from a whole range of sabotage and terrorist operations against that sovereign state.

U.S. Forces on Alert

LD060939 Moscow TASS in English 0832 GMT 6 Jan 86

[Text] New York, January 6 TASS -- As is reported by the ABC television company, the United States is building up military preparations in the Mediterranean Sea basin off Libya's shores. The aircraft carrier "America" and the battleship "Iowa" are ready at any minute to leave Norfolk (Virginia) and join the aircraft-carrier "Coral Sea" which has been moved to that area. Squadrons of up-to-date combatant planes have been alerted at NATO's airbase Sigonella in Italy. It is absolutely clear that the American military mahcine is ready to hit a strike if it gets an order, the ABC points out.

'Insults' Against Libya

PM031914 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Jan 86 Morning Edition p 5

[Konstantin Geyvandov "Political Observer's Opinion": "Target for the 'Neoglobalism' Doctrine"]

[Text] The end of last year was marked by two acts of terrorism committed at Rome and Vienna international airports. They were condemned by virtually all countries. However, Washington and Tel Aviv are trying to derive advantage for the buildup of their aggressive actions even from this. The Italian and Austrian authorities had hardly started the investigation and search for those guilty of the crime when Israeli Foreign Minister Shamir hastened to issue a previously prepared "prompt," pointing the finger at Libya. Current Israeli Prime Minister Peres also tried not be be left behind his colleague, stating that the "International center of terrorism is in Libya," Virtually identical "accusations" were also issued by official U.S. spokesmen.

These insults against Libya are backed by direct threats. It is reported, in particular, that the Pentagon is discussing the possibility of inflicting air strikes against the country's territory and organizing an invasion by U.S. special forces. Subunits of these forces, the U.S. mass media stresses, are already training to destroy military targets in Libya and to blow up its oil pipelines. Other reports say that the first such strikes against Libyan territory will be carried out by the Pentagon's junior partners -- the Israeli military -- and, as if inviting them to act, official White House spokesman Speakes stated that "We (that is, the United States), naturally welcome retaliatory measures against terrorists."

Do the "accusations" against Libya have anything to do with reality, one wonders? Of course not. The Libyan Jamahiriyah, both after the current tragic events in Rome and Vienna and in connection with similar cases in the past, has unconditionally condemned acts of terrorism and attempts upon the lives of entirely innocent people. There are laws in the country that lay down severe punishments for those guilty of carrying out acts of terrorism. The sincerity of this position by Libya was recently tested, for instance, in connection with the hijacking of the Egyptian airliner. Then, we recall, in an effort to play up to Washington, Cairo claimed that it knew for certain that the leader of this terrorist operation was in the Libyan capital of Tripoli and living in one of the best hotels. They even gave the number of the "suite" he was occupying. They put their foot in it! When Western journalists checked this "information" it was not confirmed, to put it mildly.

The latest anti-Libyan smear campaign organized by the U.S.-Israeli partners is needed in order to manipulate public opinion. This in its turn, as a Washington official has admitted, "is needed to justify any future military actions against Libya." And so we approach the natural question: How does this country not suit the United States and its allies? And in order to answer it, we need merely to go back for a few moments to the events which took place there more than 16 years ago.

On 1 September 1969 a group of young Libyan officers headed by M. al-Qadhdhafi ousted the country's monarchy. The new regime embarked on the path of strengthening national independence and eliminating foreign domination, the path of implementing progressive socioeconomic transformations. This struck primarily at the interests of U.S. and British imperialism. Slightly more than 6 months later, Britain had to evacuate its large military bases on Libyan territory, and the United States followed suit in June of the same year. They also lost control over Libya's oil resources. To this should be added the positions which the country adopted in the international arena. These are based on an anti-imperialist course and the policy of supporting the peoples' national liberation struggle. Libya participates actively in the Nonaligned Movement, makes a positive contribution to the Arab peoples' struggle to eliminate the consequences of Israeli aggression, and opposes separate deals and other U.S. and Israeli schemes in questions of a Near East settlement.

I think that what has been said is quite sufficient in order to understand why, with each passing year since September 1969, Washington has increasingly been gripped by hatred and malice with regard to Tripoli. With the advent to power of the present U.S. Administration, the goal was set of reversing history or, to put it in the term they now use, to "punish" Libya and its leadership. Quite recently it became known that Washington has plans for open armed aggression against the country and, while waiting for a favorable moment, the CIA has been permitted to secretly "undermine" the Libyan regime. It is even claimed that talks have been held in the Near East with "countries friendly to the United States" on coordinating possible military scenarios.

It is not hard to detect that all the anti-Libyan U.S. activity is being shaped, as if to order, into another doctrine that has now been created by the Washington "hawks" which they call "neoglobalism." Its essence is the following: On the one hand, to prevent regional conflicts from dying down if the correlation of forces there is not in U.S. favor, and, on the other hand, to whip up new conflicts across the entire U.S. "front of interests." "Neoglobalism" is already being applied to all developing countries. The selection of means with which it will be implemented includes the creation of opposition to regimes that do not suit Washington (along the lines of the Nicaraguan "contras" or Afghan dushmans), subversive CIA activity, and direct armed interference. In other words, entirely undisguised terrorism elevated to the level of state policy.

Returning to Washington's anti-Libyan plans, one cannot fail to see that the Americans are striving in every possible way to enlist the support of their other allies, in addition to Israel, and to prepare public opinion for the possibility of armed U.S. interference in Libya -- and not without success in a number of cases. Thus, the French bourgeois press willingly rehashes in every way the U.S. stories about the Libyan Jamahiriyah's imaginary complicity in virtually all acts of terrorism committed in the world, and the other day the newspaper LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS even went so far as to accuse Libya of allegedly provoking the conflict between Mali and Burkina Faso.

On the very eve of last year's Soviet-U.S. summit in Geneva, U.S. President Reagan suddenly started showing increased interest in regional conflicts, claiming that their unsettled nature was a direct threat to peace and the peoples' security. But what happens in practice? Washington tries to whip up new "hot spots" alongside those that already exist.

'Hostile Campaign' Shows Policy

PM041449 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Jan 86 Second Edition p 5

[V. Vinogradov military-political commentary: "Threats..."]

[Text] Increasing attention is being drawn to the fact that the United States is preparing to resort to military actions [voyennyye aktsiya] against Libya. Washington has long been striving to settle scores with it, groundlessly accusing the Libyan Government of involvement in "international terrorism." Its attempts to break Libya by economic blockade proved unsuccessful. Neither the gamble on the counter-revolutionary emigre opposition nor the CIA's secret plan for a coup d'etat in the country achieved the desired aim. Nor have the Libyan people been intimidated by the overt shows of military might which the Pentagon has repeatedly staged in the immediate vicinity of Libya's territorial waters and airspace.

Now the United States is formulating plans for a direct armed invasion of Libya. White House deputy press secretary Speakes has cynically stated that "military actions" are envisaged among the measures which Washington may take to "pressure" Libya. And according to THE WASHINGTON POST's information, the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff already has "several options for an attack" on Libya.

Furthermore -- as a CBS-TV correspondent has reported, citing the U.S. Navy command -- the U.S. Armed Forces in the Mediterranean area have been placed on alert. According to the command's spokesman, this was done in case President Reagan decides to launch a strike against Libya. However, observers believe that the U.S. Navy command deliberately leaked the information about the U.S. troops in the Mediterranean being placed on alert. This was done to mask an existing secret plan for an air strike against Libya.

It is significant that the "strategic ally" of the United States in the Near East -- Israel -- has hastened to join the intensifying anti-Libyan campaign. Tel Aviv's official spokesman welcomed Speakes' statement and in unison with Washington let loose a barrage of threats against Libya, declaring that Israel "will choose its own time, targets, and means of delivering a strike." Peres, the Israeli premier, in a speech full of insults against Libya, mentioned the possibility of the use of military force against this independent state located thousands of kilometers from Israel's borders.

The reasons for such blatant hostility on the part of Washington and Tel Aviv in respect to the Libyan Jamahiriyah are Tripoli's consistent anti-imperialist foreign policy, its persistent struggle for the just resolution of the Near East problem and the strengthening of Arab unity, and its unequivocally negative stance in respect to the various separatist deals that are being foisted on Arab states. Libya is also playing an increasingly active role in the struggle to end the nuclear arms race and for peace and security throughout the world. Further confirmation of this is a statement issued by the Libyan People's Committee for Foreign Liaison, which points to the need to end all nuclear tests and explosions, emphasizes the impermissibility of the militarization of space, and expresses a high opinion of the Soviet peace initiatives.

The intensification of the hostile campaign against Libya and the military actions against this sovereign country being planned by the United States and Israel demonstrate with the utmost clarity that a policy of state terrorism remains the main tool of the U.S. imperialists and Israeli Zionists in the international arena. However, as the participants in the mass demonstrations which have swept Libya have declared, its people angrily denounce the aggressive imperialist and Zionist preparations and reaffirm their loyalty to the revolutionary principles which no U.S. or Israeli threats can induce them to abandon.

Libyan Policy Angers U.S.

LD040004 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 3 Jan 86

[Text] The Government of Libya has drawn the attention of the international community to the increasingly dangerous machinations of the United States and Israel, which are preparing to unleash aggression against Libya. In the declaration of the government distributed as an official document of the UN General Assembly and Security Council, it is emphasized that the Libyan Jamahiriyah recognized the scale of the danger and will defend itself with full determination, relying on the support of all peoples against whom imperialist aggression is being directed.

Here is a commentary on this latest news; Igor Surguchev at the microphone: The threats to the security of this Arab country in the north of Africa are fully realistic. In Tripoli they are not overstating the case. Reagan's administration is with exceptional seriousness examining the possibility of military actions against Libya, reported the U.S. television company ABC. With reference to sources in the Pentagon, it indicates that the range of possible actions extends from support for Israeli anti-Libyan military action to bombing individual targets on Libyan territory by the U.S. Air Force. According to data from another U.S. television company, CBS, the U.S. Armed Forces in the Mediterranean have already received reinforcements which are directly related to preparations for aggression against Libya. Thus, plans, threatening the security and sovereignty of an independent state and also peace in a region which itself is explosive, are being worked out and brought into action.

On what do Washington and Tel Aviv base their aggressive intentions? It has to be said that their motivation is not new. U.S. and Israeli leaders are yet again without proof, claiming that Libya is a haven for terrorists and that it encourages international terrorism. At the same time, the Libyan Government is resolutely rejecting these insinuations as totally unfounded. It has been declaring its noninvolvement in the recent acts of terror in Rome and Vienna, although an attempt to ascribe responsibility to Tripoli has been made.

However, ignoring all this, the partners in the strategic alliance are obstinately following their line. They are clearly itching to punish the Libyans and the tragic incidents I have mentioned from their point of view, are a convenient reason to unleash military force against Libya.

It is generally known that the hard, anti-imperialist policy of this country, its support for national liberation movements in Africa and the Near East and its active opposition to the forces of reaction have for a long time caused extreme irritation in Washington and Tel Aviv. The trade and economic boycott of Libya, declared by the United States, is not effective; the attempts to stir neighboring states against Libya are failing. Such is the real cause of the malicious anti-Libyan compaign, which is threatening to overflow into aggressive actions against a sovereign country.

REAGAN VIEWS ON LATIN AMERICAN CONFLICTS DISPUTED

U.S. Drugs, Terrorist Link

LD031843 Moscow TASS in English 1813 GMT 3 Jan 86

["Of Narcotics Trafficking and Terrorism" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, January 3 TASS -- TASS news analyst Aleksey Grigoryev writes: Speaking in an interview with the Mexican news agency NOTIMEX, U.S. President Ronald Reagan said:

"The link between the governments of such Soviet allies as Cuba and Nicaragua and international narcotics trafficking and terrorism is becoming increasingly clear. These twin evils -- narcotics trafficking and terrorism -- represent the most insidious and dangerous threats to the (Western) Hemisphere today."

He added:

"If they (the Soviet Union) truly seek improved relations with the United States, one way to achieve that goal would be to end those activities."

The Soviet Union truly seeks improved relations with the United States and believes that the main way to achieve that goal would be for Washington to abandon its preparations for "star wars." As to the other charge made by the President, who accused the USSR, Cuba and Nicaragua of "narcotics trafficking" and "terrorism" without adducing any proof, the following should be said:

As is known, supply creates demand. It is equally well-known that the State of California, where President Reagan was governor for many years, leads his country for the scope of illicit drug peddling, while the United States itself is the world's biggest consumer of narcotics which bring the criminal dealers engaging in this kind of racket 80 billion dollars in profits every year. The data has not been taken from the Soviet newspaper PRAVDA or the Cuban GRANMA: It has been reported by California's Attorney-General John Van de Kamp.

It is another open secret that U.S. police have become increasingly involved in illegal dope trafficking, so that it is now needed to watch those who are themselves keeping tabs on drug pushers -- an observation that has been made by the American TV network NBC in its report on a scandal in Florida where more than 20 high-ranking police officers were helping boost "white death" traffic there as a sideling to their regular jobs. The U.S. Government is losing out in its "war" on drug traffickers and so the amount of narcotics sold in the country is inexorably on the increase -- a conclusion reached recently by an international commission on narcotics, which included representatives of seven major capitalist countries.

But the United States has not only created enormous demand for the deadly stuff.

All 400 experts from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico, Cuba, Peru and another seven Latin American countries, who attended a convention of the Latin American Association of Forensic Medicine and an international seminar on toxicology in Havana last November, were unanimous that big business plays an ominous role in the continuing aggravation of the problem of drug abuse in the United States and in the involvement of also other countries of the continent in illicit narcotics production and trafficking. So, to use the U.S. President's words, a "most insidious and dangerous threat" is really there, only the causes behind it are not at all what he claims they are.

Narcotics get into the black market through Paraguay's customs, while Bolivia is among the prime sources of illicit cocaine supplies to American users -- a conclusion drawn, not by PRAVDA or GRANMA, but by THE WASHINGTON POST.

Writing about another continent, the Indian news service PRESS AGENCY INTERNATIONAL (PAI) said that even rough estimates gave grounds for considering Pakistan the major supplier of narcotics to the world black market. PAI was told by M.L. Radhavan, director-general of a special anti-contraband department of the Indian police, that Pakistani smugglers and spies were using Indian territory for the transit of drugs to be exported to the United States and Western Europe.

Whereas California in the United States has the lead in drug consumption, Pakistan's North-Western Border Province is second to none as a narcotics storage and transshipment point. It is there as well as in Baluchistan that the C.I.A.'s dollars (over 470 million of them this fiscal year alone) have helped set up more than 100 camps for Afghan counter-revolutionaries who alternate their bandit-style sanguinary raids into Democratic Afghanistan with busy wholesale and retail trade in arms and drugs alike. Heroin dealing, the U.S. TIME magazine acknowledged, was an important business in the border provinces. That explosive mix of weapons, money and narcotics, it added, could become a source of serious difficulties for Pakistan. And, indeed, it has already led to an explosion.

The ferocity and ruthlessness now shown by Pakistani regular forces in their bid to crush the resistance of Pashtun tribes are explained not only by the freedom-loving Afridi and Shinwar tribes' decision to bar counter-revolutionary gangs the way to Democratic Afghanistan but also by narcotics traffic in Pakistan's western provinces having thus come in jeopardy. So, to use the President's words once again, "The link between narcotics trafficking and terrorism" really exists, but not where he claims it is.

U.S. Behind Regional Tension

LD032026 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1628 GMT 3 Jan 86

["The Craftiness of Those Caught in State Terrorism" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 3 Jan (TASS) -- TASS commentator Yuriy Levchenko writes:

On the eve of the meeting on 3 January with the Mexican president, Miguel de la Madrid, U.S. President Reagan gave an interview to Mexican journalists in which he unleashed attacks on the foreign policy of the Soviet Union, Cuba, and Nicaragua. In particular, he accused the USSR of "supporting groups which are trying to set up communist, dictatorial regimes in the Western Hemisphere," of carrying out "subversive activity," and of "supporting terrorism". Reagan further claimed that the United States of America is supposedly "fully supporting the peace-making efforts of the Contadora Group" while Nicaragua is acting as a brake on the development of this process.

A high-ranking official of the State Department touched on this subject immedidately afterward at a briefing especially organized for journalists. Touching on the Contadora Group he called upon the countries within it to hold a position "closer to the U.S. position" in relation to Central America, which can only be regarded as direct pressure on them. This representative announced that the most serious threat to political stability in Central America comes from the "subversive actions" of the USSR, Cuba, and Nicaragua which are engaged in the "mass export of revolution."

Such statements are a classic sample of political hypocrisy and slander. Their aim is to make out white as black and draw attention away from Washington's own marauding behavior in the international arena. As is confirmed by irrefutable facts, the root of the situation which has unfolded in Central America, as in other "hot spots" around the world, lies in the U.S. policy aimed at foisting and preserving systems advantageous to it and directed toward interference in the affairs of sovereign states.

It has not pleased Washington that in Central America the people of Nicaragua have chosen an independent path of development which does not fit into the framework of U.S. aims in this region, which the United States has arbitrarily declared its "exclusive zone of interest". It is seriously alarmed by the revolutionary conflagration in neighboring El Salvador. The Duarte regime is trying, with U.S. help, to extinguish this conflagration, which has flared up as a result of the dominance of U.S. monompolies and the local oligarchy, by coercion, while they proclaim others to be the perpetrators of this coercion.

The consequences of the undeclared war which the United States of America is waging against Nicaragua through the "contras" are well known: In 5 years the bandits have killed 8,000 and wounded 4,000 people. Seven thousand children have been orphaned. The Republic has suffered material damage to the tune of $1.5 billion. In El Salvador tens of thousands of opponents of the pro-U.S. regime have perished at the hands of the "death squads" connected with the CIA. These facts, cited by authoritative international and U.S. organizations, synonymously testify to the fact that the United States is carrying out a policy of state terrorism in Central America.

As far as the Contadora Group is concerned, Nicaragua has always supported it and consistently come out in favor of a peaceful settlement. Its constructive position assisted the drawing up in September 1984 of the "act of peace", plan, which met the interests of all states of the region. This important step on the path to peace did not suit Washington. With the aid of puppet regimes obedient to it, the White House wrecked the signing of the "act of peace" and substituted it with another plan, infringing on the sovereignty of the peoples of Central America. Genuine progress in the activity of the Contadora Group is not possible while the United States of America carries out international banditry, violates the norms of international law and the fundamental principles of the UN Charter.

Washington's arbitrary rule, that is the genuine reason for the present tension in Central America and this fact cannot be concealed by any attacks and fabrications.

U.S. URANIUM PROCESSING PLANT LEAKS TOXIC GAS

LD061033 Moscow TASS in English 1016 GMT 6 Jan 86

[Text] New York, January 6 TASS -- More than 100 people were hospitalized following a radioactive gas leak at an uranium processing plant of the Kerr-McGee company near the town of Webber Falls in Oklahoma.

According to the UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL, the accident was due to a calculating mistake which results in the overloading of a 14-ton steel cylinder of acid containing radioactive uranium.

As the overloading problem was dealt with, the cylinder ruptured, spewing seven tons of toxic chemicals into the air. One of the plant workers later died in the hospital. The plant is now shut down and all roads leading to it are blocked.

BOROUIK DEPLORES 'ANTI-SOVIET' ATTITUDES OF U.S. FILMS

LD292246 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 29 Dec 85

[Report by Genrikh Borovik, secretary of the Board of the USSR Union of Writers; video shows clips of U.S. schoolchildren and clips from the film "Red Dawn", from the "Vermya" newscast]

[Text] Today I want to tell you about a U.S.film and even show you an excerpt from it. The film begins with captions which immediately put the spectator in the picture. The Soviet Union has occupied the countries of Eastern Europe. The forces of Cuba and Nicaragua have moved in on El Salvador. In Mexico a revolution has flared up. The North Atlantic pact has fallen apart. The United States is left in isolation. Such is the situation. Then the action begins in a school in a small, peaceful, little town in the very center of the United States. The history teacher is telling the pupils about the campaigns of Genghis Khan and speaks about how his forces burned settlements and destroyed whole peoples. Now watch: in a direct continuation of the invasions of Genghis Khan, the town and everything arount it is occupied by Soviet, Cuban, and Nicaraguan forces. To the sounds of the Soviet anthem they shoot peaceful inhabitants, set up a concentration camp in the center of the town, and stifle the crying and groans of the prisoners with the sounds of the Internationale. A small group of schoolchildren enter the struggle with the occupiers who have caught the United States unawares.

This film is called "Red Dawn." For more than 2 years it has been showing on the screens of movie theaters in the United States and now it is on television screens. The captions indicate that the film is designed for adolescents over 13 years old, too. So the film is for adolescents. These adolescents will grow up and they will become adults, but in their souls and instinctive fear of the Russians will persist all their lives, a distrust of us. This is, so to speak, one sense, one moral, but there is another: to arm, day and night to arm, on earth and in space to prepare, otherwise the same will happen as in the film. This is just one picture from tens and hundreds.

The Geneva summit meeting reduced tension in the world. Between our countries an exchange of signals has taken place that offers a ray of hope, but even this ray has frightened the forces across the ocean. They have set about drowning it with a black stream of hatred and fear. In the short interval of time that has passed since Geneva they have urgently poured out of the tightly packed sack of anti-Soviet television programs and films all of its filthy contents for Americans: "Red Dawn," "Rambo," and cartoons for the smallest children. ABC is preparing a serial of 26 films which will, in considerably more detail than "Red Dawn," tell of how the United States is occupied by the Russians. There is, of course, no doubt that the Russians dream of occupying the United States. Even an advertisement for Miller beer is now being made with an anti-Soviet accent.

To what extent is it possible not to respect one's own people, forcing it to see a great country that has saved the world from fascism as the mortal enemy of the United States? I will tell you to what extent: to the extent that those who build their material and political well-being on the arms race and on fear and on hatred, fear and hate the ray of hope of possible detente.

Yesterday in Nevada State a nuclear device 10 times the force of the bomb exploded in Horoshima was exploded underground.

This is in reply to our proposal to join a moratorium on all nuclear explosions before 1 January. This is in reply to the hopes of the whole world. In Washington they say that one of the reasons the United States does not agree to a stop to explosions is the existing mutual distrust. When there is trust, they say, then it will be possible to stop all nuclear tests and reduce arms.

How they try in the United States to strengthen trust between our countries is shown by the film "Red Dawn". I appeal to my good friends, the U.S. writers Norman Mailer, Kurt Vonnegut, Norman Cousins, the journalist Harrison Salisbury, the dramatist Edward Albee, the film director Warren Beatty; I appeal to my colleagues in the International Theater Institute which regards literature and art as a great means for elevating man, for spreading truth and goodness: Is it not time to draw the bolt on the art of speculators in fear and hatred; is it not time to understand that such films and television serials are an integral part of the arms race? They are paving the road to a worldwide disaster with them. Is it not time to understand that the authors of such works are the enemies not only of the Soviet people, but also of the U.S. people?

YEVTUSHENKO PROPOSES U.S.-SOVIET CULTURAL GROUP

AU031403 Paris AFP in English 1348 GMT 3 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, Jan 3 (AFP) -- Poet Yevgeniy Yevtushenko today proposed setting up a joint Soviet-American "cultural committee" made up of outstanding personalities from each country.

He told a press conference held at the Foreign Ministry that the committee members should neither hold official positions, nor be paid for their work.

Mr. Yevtushenko's suggestion was looked on by observers here as a reply to the call by the illegal Soviet pacifist movement here for a "Group to Restore Confidence Between the Soviet Union and the United States."

Pacifists, who face harassment by the authorities here, advocate an increase of cultural exchanges and the creation of a "Foundation for Developing Confidence" between the two countries which would be run by a committee of their independent pacifist movements.

Mr. Yevtushenko, the former "enfant terrible" of Soviet literature, is now aged 52 and more conventionally minded, but this did not stop him launching a bitter attack last month against Soviet bureaucracy.

Deputy Culture Minister Georgi Ivanov recently supported increased cultural exchanges with the United States on a non-political basis, while at the same time criticising the "anti-Soviet campaign" which he claims can be seen in many American films.

COMMENTATORS REVIEW DEVELOPMENTS IN USSR - PRC TIES

OW041120 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to China 0400 GMT 31 Dec 85

[Commentary by station observer (Axin)]

[Text] There have been notable developments in relations between the Soviet Union and China during the year soon to be over. The most notable events in the year have been the visits to the Soviet Union by Yao Yilin and Li Peng, vice premiers of the State Council of China, and the agreement on bilateral trade for the second half of the 1980's and the agreement on Soviet assistance with China's industrialization signed by the two countries.

It is estimated that 1985's trade volume between the Soviet Union and China will grow 40 percent from the 1984 level to reach in excess of U.S. $1.5 billion. The annual volume of bilateral trade between the two countries is expected to increase to a level of nearly U.S. $4 billion by the end of the 1980's. The Soviet Union is committed to helping China build 7 new industrial enterprises and remodel and modernize 17 of the projects built in the 1950's with Soviet aid.

In the first few years after the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Soviet Union provided assistance in favorable terms to the Chinese people, helping them build about 250 economic projects. These projects included large metallurgical and machine-manufacturing plants and oilfields. Compared with the 1950's, the extent of cooperation remains relatively limited now. This is also the case with Soviet-Chinese trade ties. Trade with the Soviet Union now accounts for only about 3 percent of the total volume of China's foreign trade. It comes to only one-tenth of the volume of trade between China and Japan. However, we think the long-term agreement signed between the Soviet Union and China is significant for the principle it represents. It is an agreement with very good prospects that will open a new page in the development of good-neighborly economic cooperation between the Soviet Union and China following a long interruption.

Our Station Observer (Axin) continues to write: In my view, as far as our two countries are concerned, to develop friendly relations and cooperation between us is an inevitable objective. The Soviet Union is an industrially developed country equipped with modern science and technology, able to provide the most modern equipment and construction materials to China, thereby effectively promoting China's economic development. Furthermore, since 70 percent of the equipment in China's factories is made in the Soviet Union, it is therefore the Soviet Union which can most effectively provide the guarantee for China's modernization. At the same time, the Soviet Union can offer a large sales market for the farm and light industrial products which China is having more and more difficulty selling to other countries. Both the Soviet Union and China promote the development of their economies in a planned way. This is conducive to establishing solid and lasting ties between them. In addition, unlike capitalist countries, the Soviet Union has favorable terms to offer when it comes to settling accounts. The Soviet Union can arrange for barter trade in order not to spend foreign exchange when the reserve is short. China sustains huge deficits in its trade with Japan and the United States, but it enjoys a favorable trade balance with the Soviet Union.

Also, our country sets no preconditions whatsoever for the development of the relations between our two countries. In his meeting with Vice Premier Li Peng of the State Council of China the other day, Soviet leader Gorbachev reiterated the Soviet Union's sincere wish to improve Soviet-Chinese relations. He said: It accords with the long-term and fundamental interests of the Soviet and Chinese peoples and with the interests of peace and security of Asia and the rest of the world for our two countries to continue to advance in promoting the cause of strengthening good-neighborly relations and cooperation between us.

Ivanov Cites Positive Changes

OW051100 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to China 0400 GMT 2 Jan 86

[Commentary by station observer Ivanov]

[Text] Dear listeners: As the world enters a new year, 1986, the people of various countries wish to improve the political atmosphere on earth by developing international cooperation. Last year saw positive changes in Soviet-Chinese relations, and we are optimistic about it. Station observer Ivanov gives a talk in this connection:

Toward the end of 1985, Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, met in Moscow with Li Peng, member of the Political Bureau and Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee and vice premier of the State Council. During the meeting Gorbachev reiterated the Soviet Union's genuine wish for significant improvements in its relations with the PRC. Soviet policy toward China has been consistent and principled. It is built on the following indisputable foundation that the normalization of Soviet-Chinese relations and development of cooperation between these two socialist countries are in accord with the lasting and fundamental interests of the Soviet and the Chinese peoples, as well as conform to the interests of world socialism and peace and security in Asia and the world over.

At the meeting of the Political Consultation Committee of the Warsaw Pact states in Sofia last October, the surpreme leader of the Warsaw Pact stated that in the future further efforts will be made in developing relations with all socialist countries. He also expressed the wish to develop cooperation with China in striving for peace and socialism and in opposing imperialism.

The delegation of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR made a reciprocal visit to China in late 1985 at the request of China's National People's Congress [NPC]. China's NPC delegation visited the USSR in March 1985. Tolkunov, head of the delegation of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and chairman of the Soviet of the Union, talked in IZVESTIYA about the warm reception accorded the delegation in China. The Chinese people expressed friendly sentiments toward all members of the delegation and the Soviet envoys.

Tolkunov wrote: In the localities, the Chinese people spoke highly of the Soviet assistance rendered during the Chinese revolutionary period and in the 1950's. They highly praised the Soviet experts' work in China and hoped for closer ties with the Soviet Union. Li Xiannian, president of the People's Republic of China, and Peng Zhen, chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, met with all the members of the Soviet delegation. They expressed optimism in future prospects for normalization of Soviet-Chinese relations. Li Xiannian called for more exchanges and dialogue in order to overcome difficulties and dissension.

Notable trade and economic developments were made between the Soviet Union and China in 1985. Last summer, China's Vice Premier Yao Yilin made an official visit to the Soviet Union. During the Soviet-Chinese talks, both sides reaffirmed the wish to further expand bilateral trade and economic relations. The Soviet and the Chinese Governments signed the Commodity Exchange and Payments Agreement for 1986-90 and the economic and technical cooperation agreement for building and revamping the industrial enterprises in China.

As the new year, 1986, starts, the Soviet people firmly believe that it will bring forth fresh contributions to developing Soviet-Chinese relations and to strengthening traditional friendship between the Soviet and the Chinese peoples.

MOSCOW SOIREE MARKS CHINA'S DEC 9TH MOVEMENT

OW270629 Moscow in Mandarin to China 1600 GMT 26 Dec 85

[Text] A soiree was held in the House of Friendship in Moscow yesterday to mark the 50th anniversary of the December 9th Movement against Japanese imperialism. Soviet Sinologist (Melik Shetov) said at the soiree: The December 9th Movement in 1935 was a component part of the Chinese people's anti-Japanese struggle. It brought about an anti-Japanese upsurge organized by the Communist Party of China.

The soiree was cosponsored by the USSR Union of Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Society. Present were Soviet sinologists, activists of the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Society, and representatives of various circles of Moscow. Some Chinese Embassy staff headed by Minister-Counsellor Li Fenglin also attended the soiree on invitation.

PRC MINISTER ATTACKS U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

PM201633 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Dec 85 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "The PRC's Position"]

[Text] Beijing, 19 Dec -- XINHUA has reported that Wu Xueqian, member of the CPC Central Committee Politburo and PRC foreign minister, who has been visiting Syria, declared that U.S. support for the policy of aggression and expansion pursued by Israel is the chief reason why the Near East problem is unresolved.

In the course of talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' Wu' Xueqian declared that China opposes Israel's anti-Arab policy and supports the just struggle of Arab countries and the Palestinian people for the return of the occupied lands and the restoration of the Arab countries' national rights. The unity of the Arab countries and the Palestinian people is the key to achieving peace in that region.

The Chinese minister emphasized the important role which Syria plays in achieving a comprehensive and just solution of the Near East problem.

SHEVARDNADZE TO VISIT DPRK IN MID-JANUARY

LD031459 Moscow TASS in English 1446 GMT 3 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, January 3 TASS -- Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, Foreign Minister of the USSR Eduard Shevardnadze will pay an official friendly visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in mid-January this year at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the DPRK.

TALKS WITH JAPAN, SHEVARDNADZE VISIT PREVIEWED

LD041746 Moscow World Service in English 1531 GMT 4 Jan 86

[Lev Rozin commentary from the "Focus on Asia" program]

[Text] Judging by the Japanese press, the upcoming visit [to Japan by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze] is viewed locally as a significant event in the history of relations between the two nations, and the Japanese side is engaged in careful preparation for it. High-ranking Japanese politicians have expressed the desire to promote political contacts with the USSR on different levels and to search for a solution to certain practical issues in bilateral relations. Well, if they are in earnest, the Soviet side will be ready to cooperate. We view political contacts with Japan as an effective means of searching for the ways to improve the international situation in Asia and the Pacific. We are always ready for constructive endeavors and for practical steps aimed at developing and expanding neighborly ties between our countries.

Speaking at the latest session of the Supreme Soviet, the general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, Mikhail Gorbachev, stressed that there are real opportunities for improving Soviet-Japanese relations. This position underlies our approach to such an important form of political dialogue as talks between the Soviet and Japanese foreign ministers. Considering the importance of such talks, we believe that it is necessary not only to start careful preparations for the visit in diplomatic and technical terms, but also to take steps aimed at creating a favorable atmosphere for it.

On the other hand, we can't ignore various speculations circulating in Japan. Their authors, with reference to official sources, are discussing the talks that have not begun yet and predicting failure in negotiations on the issues they believe will be on the agenda. Moreover, they link solution to this or that problem with the efforts to induce the Soviet side to comply with some preliminary conditions that have nothing to do with these problems at all. For instance, there is talk that without Soviet concessions in the so-called problem of Northern Territories, it is impossible to develop bilateral economic cooperation. There are declarations that if the Soviet Union fails to comply with Japan's demands with regard to visiting graves in the south of the Kurile Islands, Japan will not resume the implementation of the bilateral agreement on scientific and technical cooperation.

In answer to such statements, it would be appropriate to remind that the Soviet Union is an economically developed power with a vast scientific and technical potential. It is capable of independently resolving any complicated economic and technical problem without sacrificing its sovereignty. As for the agreement on scientific and technical cooperation, it was signed by high-ranking officials on both sides and its unconditional implementation is a must.

Other insinuations of those who go in for preliminary conditions can also be countered. However, I'd like to point out that talks between the two countries' foreign ministers are a very serious affair which requires a responsible approach from both sides. It's impossible to contribute to the development of Soviet-Japanese relations in a direction answering to the long-term interests of the two nations by predicting failure to them. It would be better to try to make a positive contribution to better understanding, to join in the search for mutually acceptable ways to improve Japanese-Soviet relations basing on the existing realities. This would be conducive to creating a favorable atmosphere for the talks in question and for the future relations between the two neighboring countries.

LONG-TERM TRADE AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN PROPOSED

LD051923 Moscow World Service in English 1531 GMT 5 Jan 86

[From the "Focus on Asia" program, commentary by Radio Moscow observer (Ivan Georgiyev)]

[Text] And now an item about prospects for and advantages of long-term stable economic relations between the Soviet Union and Japan. The item has been written by Radio Moscow observer (Ivan Georgiyev):

Transnational corporations are the prime movers of the capitalist economies and they are only concerned about super profits at any cost. That leads to anarchy in the economies of the capitalist countries and, accordingly, in the trade relations between these countries. The Soviet Union has a planned economy which guarantees our trading partners an absence of all sorts of unpleasant, unexpected things. On the other hand, for the Soviet Union this means a need to base its foreign economic ties on a plan. The USSR offers Japan an agreement about the principles of economic cooperation and, on the basis of this agreement, it suggests working out a long-term program of such cooperation to mutual advantage. The draft guidelines for the Soviet Union's economic and social development from 1986 through 1990 and for a period of up to the year 2000, a program placed for a nationwide discussion before the 27th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party, provide for the development of a mutually advantageous basis of stable economic relations with interested capitalist countries.

To have such relations it is necessary to conclude long-term agreements with these countries on principles of economic cooperation. Such practice justifies itself. That is shown for one by the experience of a number of West European countries. Trade and economic relations between the Soviet Union and these countries have been developing successfully on the basis of such agreements. At the same time, the absence of such a long-term agreement between the USSR and Japan is a factor that interferes with bilateral ties. A claim is often made in Japan that the structural changes in the Japanese industry are an obstacle to the development of Japanese-Soviet trade.

However, not only industry, but the whole economy is being restructured in the Soviet Union, too. The restructuring is based on progress in science and technology and so the structural changes in the Soviet and Japanese economies, instead of hampering economic cooperation, create additional possibilities for promoting it. That is shown by the interest in the Soviet Union of the Japanese business community. Some time ago the Japanese newspaper NIHON KEIZAI said that Japanese companies, one after another, expressed the wish to attend the Japanese industrial exhibition that will be arranged in Moscow in the autumn of this year. It was originally expected that 9 big trading firms would take part in it, but today the number of exhibitors exceeds 30.

The favorable prospects for broader Soviet-Japanese trade and economic cooperation also stem from the following important circumstances: There are plans here to develop the economy of the Soviet eastern areas. The railroad between Lake Baykal and the Amur River is to start operating on a permanent basis throughout its length and so large-scale economic development of the zone along the railroad is to begin. Further work is planned to form a southern Yakutian territorial production complex. A metallurgical base is to be set up drawing on the local fields of coking coal and iron ore. Another railroad is to be built to link the inner regions of Yakutia with the trunk line between Lake Baykal and the Amur River. A number of big power plants, as well as factories, are to be built in the Far East of this country and farm output there should be boosted. There is a target to ensure a fast growth in living standards in those areas which will require a big supply of consumer goods there. Thus, in the Far East too, where Japan is the Soviet Union's neighbor, there objectively appear new opportunities for broader, mutually advantageous trade. Both nations are certain to benefit from conclusion of long-term agreement that would take into account the future requirements of the Soviet and Japanese economies.

CORBACHEV MEETS JAPAN'S AMBASSADOR TO MOSCOW

OW280021 Tokyo KYODO in English 0009 GMT 28 Dec 85

[Text] Moscow, Dec. 27 KYODO -- Soviet Communist Party leader Mikhail Gorbachev appeared positive toward a possible visit to Japan Friday when he was informally invited to Tokyo by Japanese Ambassador to Moscow Yasue Katori.

Gorbachev said "thank you" when Katori extended the invitation to Tokyo, according to Japanese Embassy officials. The envoy said he got a "positive" impression from the party general secretary.

Katori was among a corps of 150 ambassadors and senior envoys stationed in Moscow who were invited to the Kremlin to hear New Year greetings from Soviet Government and party leaders, including Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Gorbachev talked to Katori and only a few other diplomats, the embassy officials said. The Soviet leaders used "very polite" words when they talked to Katori, the Japanese officials said.

The Gorbachev-Katori encounter occurs at a time Soviet and Japanese Government officials are making preparations for Shevardnadze's trip to Tokyo in January, the first official visit to Japan by a Soviet foreign minister in a decade.

In an address to parliament in November, Gorbachev stressed the importance of Moscow-Tokyo ties and said, "there is a possibility of improving bilateral relations."

Japanese prime ministers have held talks with Soviet leaders in Moscow on several occasions in the past but there is no precedent for a Soviet party leader visit to Japan.

COMBAT OPERATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN DESCRIBED

PM031056 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Dec 85 Morning Edition p 6

[First part of "Reportage from Afghanistan" by special correspondent V. Kukashin: "Year of Restless Sun"]

[Text] Kabul -- The evening "Vremya" program showed snowy Moscow. But here, in a distant Afghan valley, it is still stifling. The thermometer shows plus 30 degrees. Clouds of yellow dust hang over the sun-scorched airfield where our helicopter pilots are based. The hot air is filled with the aroma of overripe oranges: Groves extend alongside the runway. But the juicy fruits do not quench your thirst. The pilots prefer to pour ordinary tea into flasks.

It is hard serving in Afghanistan. The fuselages of combat helicopters cool down only toward morning. Things are hot not only on the ground but also in the sky. Only yesterday Major Viktor Alekseyevich Buyashkin did not return from a combat mission. A burst of fire riddled the helicopter with holes near the fuel tank...

The only place you can breathe freely is the control tower. You step beneath its stone arches, and it is as though you are born anew. But today it is like a bathhouse even here. Afghan units launched an operation at dawn. A battle is being waged in a remote and rocky gorge...

Tall, bronzed guys in sand-colored coveralls listen avidly to every work amplified by the loudspeaker of the radio set linking the commander with the crews. The tense silence is broken by an agitated voice:

"This is the 709th! A heavy caliber machine gun is firing in grid square five..."

"Calm down, Vanya! Cover with free-flight rocket missiles!"

An unimaginable crash resounded from the loudspeaker, but a moment later this report came through:

"Target hit. Note: grid square five!"

"Excellent! Remember: The 'spirits' have found the range. Change your speed and height ..."

"Yes, commander!"

A smile lit up Lieutenant Colonel Tselovalnik's face.

"Piyanzin is a competent operator! Learn from him!"

The pilots drew back, and I managed to take a good look at the commander. Short and thin, with a fine shock of black hair, Vitaliy Petrovich put another little cross on the map. Then he breathed a sign of relief and raised his blue eyes to me.

"Ready? Then let's fly! Things are tricky there..."

With an abrupt movement he underlined with a felt-tip pen a height marked by the mysterious word "Tie" [shpala]. A minute later the commander's "gazik" was rushing toward the helicopter pad. A reddish little dog with the endearing name of Bim ran to greet us with joyful barking. He had been brought from the [Soviet] Union. Bim has made himself at home and long ago became accustomed to unexpected sorties. But the commander decided to leave him behind.

"Why risk it..."

Picking up a protective helmet and throwing a submachine gun over his shoulder, Vitaliy Petrovich pushed me toward the helicopter. I climbed through the hatch and noticed that the rotor blades were riddled with heavy caliber bullets...

Tselovalnik took the commander's seat. Major Viktor Ivanovich Kutnyy settled in the copilot's seat. I squeezed in between them, next to a machinegun. The engine roared into life. The commander increased the number of revolutions. The helicopter shuddered, hovered over the airfield, and suddenly, with the cabin tilted toward the runway, began rapidly gaining height. The last thing I had time to notice on the concrete surface was the huge white figure "13"...

The city, drowning in the greenery of gardens and with mosque domes shining, vanished in the heat haze. And the plain spread out, crisscrossed by ribbons of dusty roads. Sailing past below us were small islands of villages, adobe dwellings resembling fortresses, sugar cane plantations, olive groves...

Finally the dazzling snowy mountain tops showed up right on course. That is where the border with Pakistan lies. We had heard that the "defenders of Islam" were preparing a new strike against the people's power. Intelligence had reported that the dushmans were building up in the mountains and villages. They had prepared combat positions and set up weapons caches and a hospital. The main caravan route from Pakistan was only two steps away...

I knew the general outline of the Afghan comrades' plan. While I was in Kabul Lieutenant General Nazar Mohammad, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and DRA minister of defense, had familiarized me with the state of affairs in detail.

"The war has been going on for exactly 5 years," the minister said. "The officials of the king and of Daud, landowners, and moneylenders could not resign themselves to the April Revolution. The first training camps of the counterrevolution were set up in Pakistan in the spring of 1978, and by the end of the following year gangs of cutthroats were already operating in a number of our provinces. That brought suffering upon the people. Attempts were made to flood the lacerated country with blood...And then our Soviet brothers extended us a helping hand. But for them, Afghanistan would long ago have been reduced to ashes..."

The minister strode to the staff map on which the whole country was divided up into operation zones.

"It has been a tense year. We have conducted a number of successful battles jointly with subunits of Soviet troops. Neither modern weapons nor American advisers will help the dushmans. Whereas in 1981 Washington allocated $100 million to them, this year it allocated $250 million. Money thrown to the wind! The counterrevolution is collapsing."

Gen Nazar Mohammad outlined a large region in the south of Afghanistan.

"And here is a recent example. The enemies of the revolution drew up a plan for the armed capture of Khowst and Orgun. The Khowst operation conducted by our army was quick and daring. We broke the enemy ring. And then they decided to try to strike a blow in a neighboring province. A difficult region... Eight caravan routes pass through there. That was why the dushmans tried to set up a transshipment base. They began bringing in weapons, ammunition, food, and medical supplies. All this was hidden in the mountains until it was needed... The time has come to close the routes from Pakistan. And this is the aim the operation pursues. Soviet subunits are operating there jointly with our servicemen. You will see it all with your own eyes..."

And now we were flying to that "difficult region." Suddenly the helicopter bucked sharply and began to lose height. "A missile?!" -- I shuddered. And at once I noticed a path of fire coming toward us from one of the peaks. The commander's face remained calm.

"Don't be nervous!" -- Tselovalnik shouted right in my ear. "We are in a zone of inaccessibility. And turbulence is a common phenomenon. Look down below."

Only now did I start to understand that we were over the battlefield. The roar of the engine drowned out the thunder of explosions. The entire ground seemed to be shaking. Wheels and caterpillar tracks were ripping up the mountain slopes. I could clearly see combat vehicles with motor riflemen on the armor moving quickly toward a gorge, along the bed of a dried-up river. I recognized our soldiers by their dappled coveralls. And there were "commando" servicemen with them. Afghan helicopters were flying over the valley. They were supporting the infantry. And again there were flashes of fire on the mountain ridge. The dushmans' recoilless guns were joining battle. Artillery reconnaissance located them by intersection. A counterstrike thundered out. I noticed Afghan troops and our motor riflemen once again dashing into the attack, supported by artillery. The battle flared up with new force...

Sending up clouds of dust, we landed at the foot of the mountain. Lieutenant Colonel Aleksandr Nikolayevich Zharikov had set up his commander's obervation post on its very summit. But we had to sweat a bit before we got there: The slopes are strewn with huge boulders. It still remains a mystery how the combat security vehicles got up that steep slope. They formed a tight circles around an area occupied by a green tarpaulin, beneath which the staff officers had set themselves up.

Thickset, with wide cheekbones and a sunburned face, Zharikov was now looking intently into the eyepieces of a stereoscopic telescope protected by a stone breastwork, now using a pair of compasses on the map. And again he was bending over the radio set. His agitation was betrayed by large beads of sweat on his tanned forehead. He hastily told me that our subunit had moved in behind the dushmans at dawn. Captain Sergey Gorobets' servicemen had noiselessly picked off the sentry posts and begun a battle for the gorge. The set task was to mop up the valley in cooperation with Afghan troops, capture the arms caches, and then mine the paths. The chief thing was to cut the caravan route...

A minute ago we learned that the dushmans had opened fire on our subunit. There were clouds of smoke in the rocky gorge. The enemy was striking from all the adjacent heights. And fresh dushman forces were approaching at the same time. There are now more than 100 bases there, in Pakistan, where gangs are formed and trained. Capt Gorobets had just asked for fire support...

Zharikov consulted the mortar crew members and strode to the breastwork, trying to make out something in the crimson and grey smoke. The accuracy had to be impeccable. The risk was great.

"'Tar!' 'Tar!' This is 'Rum'!" -- Zharikov finally made up his mind. "I order you to work on the heights. Take care. Don't strike at your own men... Range ... Fire a salvo!"

The valley resounded with peals of thunder. The muffled cannonade turned into a continuous wail. It grew increasingly frenzied. Echoes reverberated in the mountains. It was incredible, but Gorobets' joyful voice suddenly rang out in that unimaginable chaos. I even caught his heavy breathing:

"This is the 32d! The 'spirits' have wavered! No losses. I continue to fulfill the task..."

The most difficult thing now lay ahead.

DRA NEEDS PEACE FOR DEVELOPMENT EFFORT

PM031200 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Dec 85 Morning Edition p 5

[V. Borisov article: "Using Methods of Terror and Slander"]

[Text] The last weeks of this year have been marked by a new surge in the anti-Afghan, anti-Soviet campaign in the West. Slanderous briefings and statements, falsehoods on television...the usual range of planned and coordinated hostile acts.

As usual, the conductor's rostrum is occupied by the Washington administration, whose head made an inflammatory address on the radio. R. Reagan's address was crammed with fantastic fabrications about the policy of Afghanistan and the USSR and imbued with a spirit of overt cynicism, imperial disdain for the peoples' fate, and mockery of moral principles.

The U.S. State Department report on Afghanistan published a few days earlier was couched in the same tone.

One wonders by what right do those who have wrecked the Afghans' peaceful lives "grieve" for their sufferings? They wrecked the Afghans' lives long before December 1979, when the Soviet Union, true to its treaty commitments and at the request of a friendly neighbor in trouble, came to that neighbor's aid.

It is an indisputable fact that western ruling circles and the forces of regional reaction greeted the birth of the new, democratic Afghanistan in April 1978 with undisguised hostility. From the very first months of the April revolution they launched subversive anti-Afghan activity. To that end, in the summer of the same year CIA agents established direct contact with counterrevolutionary elements that had fled to Pakistan. The ringleaders of the counterrevolution visited Washington, where they met with administration officials and certain Senators. The first anti-Afghan organizations appeared in the United States. The infiltration of armed gangs into DRA territory began. By the end of 1979 the incursions had turned into downright aggression. And the scale of this aggression has been growing constantly during the last few eyars. Today there are over 100 training camps and bases operating on Pakistani territory, where with the help of Western military instructors thousands of professional terrorists and saboteurs are simultaneously trained and equipped with the latest weapons, including rocket-propelled projectiles, recoilless guns, mortars, and grenade launchers.

The United States alone has invested more than a billion dollars, one-third of it during this last year, in this "venture."

A war is being waged against the independent state and calls are being made for "mercy" on its people. Is this not cynicism regarding the victims of their own policy?

In Western capitals the counterrevolutionaries are called "people's fighters" and "forces of national liberation." But who are these sorry "fighters" meant to be "liberating" and how? I will recall certain of their bloody acts. A U.S.-made missile downed an Afghan Airlines aircraft (Qandahar region, 4 September. All the passengers, including seven women and six children, were killed along with the crew). Dozens of entirely innocent people were killed and wounded by dushman bombs at the airport and Polytechnic Institute (Kabul, 8 and 9 December. The list of similar examples could be continued).

There it is, the true face of the "freedom fighters" -- the face of common killers. It is they who are received with open arms in the Western countries' official departments. It is they who are given support by imperialist forces, support which President Reagan in his radio address called a "moral obligation," no less.

That is what the policy of state terrorism pursued by the United States and its allies against a sovereign state looks like in practice -- a policy that tramples the fundamental right of each people to determine their own destiny themselves. The Afghans are even refused the right to a peaceful, normal life. The bandits destroy convoys carrying clothes, footwear, fuel, and grain. High-voltage power pylons are blown up. Peasants who have been given the land on which they sweated for decades working for the landowners are terrorized. Brutal reprisals are taken against teachers and clergy who support the revolution. The hands of children who have opened alphabet books for the first time are chopped off.

And the organizers of the terror venture to moralize about human rights! The Pakistani regime has provided an object lesson about their true attitude to human rights. The armed forces of this country, which have been noticeably strengthened in recent years thanks to U.S. military aid, have been sent to suppress border Pushtun tribes demanding that their territory be cleared of dushman gangs. Dozens of villages have been wiped off the face of the earth. Hundreds of peaceful inhabitants have been killed. There is a savage occupation regime in the zone of traditionally independent tribes. Is not this a flagrant violation of human rights? Is not this genuine genocide?

It is futile to expect answers to these questions from western leaders. They maintain a deep silence on that score. That silence is more eloquent than words. The punitive operations against the Pushtuns show the genuine worth of the statements by Pakistan's leaders and their patrons, who talk incessantly about their desire to give the Afghans the opportunity for "self-determination."

The Afghan people have already made a historic choice in linking their destiny to the April revolution. The DRA leadership is pursuing a policy according with the fundamental interests of the population. It is a policy of getting rid of feudal backwardness. It is a policy of the comprehensive development of the country's productive forces with the participation of the state and private sectors of the economy. It is a policy of struggling against hunger, poverty, and ignorance. Of improving the living conditions of millions of people.

Above all, peace within the country is needed in order to resolve the creative tasks facing Afghan society.

The expansion of the government to include influential representatives of the public that took place the other day in Kabul attests that the line of creating an atmosphere of dialogue and cooperation among different political forces is being implemented.

Peace is also needed on the borders of the Afghan state. Talks are being conducted with Pakistan on the initiative of the DRA Government. They would possibly have already produced concrete results and helped to defuse tension on the Afghan-Pakistani border if Pakistan and those backing it had actually shown realism and genuine interest in a political settlement.

The "pacification" actions in the Pushtun tribes' zone and the continuing intervention against the DRA can in no way promote the normalization of the situation around Afghanistan to which people in the West and Islamabad pay lip service. That approach does not ease but, on the contrary, complicates the quest for political solutions to the problem in the interests of the Afghan people and in the interests of peace and security in the region.

NEW APPOINTMENTS BROADEN BASE OF DRA REVOLUTION

PM031402 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Jan 86 First Edition p 5

[Pavel Demchenko "Commentator's Column": "The Base is Expanding"]

[Text] Major events occurred in Afghanistan's political life on the eve of the new year: Effective measures were taken to expand the sociopolitical base of the Afghan revolution. This was done on the initiative of the republic's leadership, which appealed to all Afghans to establish cooperation for the sake of ending the bloodshed and normalizing the situation throughout the country's territory. These measures include, in particular, the inclusion of a group of nonparty figures in the government. One of them has become deputy prime minister, five have occupied ministerial posts, and a further five have been appointed deputy ministers.

It is no secret that the April 1978 revolution and the decrees and reforms which it proclaimed, while essentially progressive, were not perceived in the same way by all strata of Afghan society. In addition to support, they also encountered lack of understanding, suspicion, and even opposition. This is not surprising for a backward country like Afghanistan, where the majority of inhabitants are illiterate and captives of centuries-old traditions, where many people are still not ready for changes in the archaic way of life. Furthermore, outside interference and propaganda are fanning hatred for the people's power and its policy.

In order to eliminate the entrenched prejudices, the country needs an atmosphere conducive to positive dialogue between different social and political forces, including those who still occupy negative positions toward the April revolution. It is a question of overcoming differences and achieving national reconciliation and this is, of course, impossible to attain without certain compromises and expansion of the social base of power, without the recruitment of new political allies and friends. The implementation of this task is no easy matter, but this is indeed the way offering real prospects for the return of all Afghanistan to a normal life, for an end to foreign interference.

The recent address by the DRA Revolutionary Council to the various strata of the population to embark on a constructive dialogue in the interests of the country's national rebirth encountered a positive response among the people and is yielding results. More and more new strata and groups of Afghan society are joining the positive process.

200 CIA AGENTS INSTRUCTING AFGHAN 'BANDITS'

PM031054 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Dec 85 First Edition p 5

[Own correspondent V. Baykov dispatch under the "World's Trouble Spots" rubric: "Afghanistan"]

[Text] Kabul -- Examine the photograph (center). It shows Charles Thornton, a U.S. citizen and former correspondent of the ARIZONA REPUBLIC newspaper who exchanged his reporter's pen for a dushman's turban. For 3 weeks he and three other Americans -- CIA agents -- roamed Afghan soil armed with submachine guns as part of the gang led by the hardened cutthroat Mullah (Malang).

C. Thornton's end was inevitable -- he died during a clash between two dushman gangs.

But he and his three compatriots were not alone. It has been reliably established that a group of "quiet Americans" has instructed bandits in methods of handling heavy weapons, including surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles. CIA agents were with the (Gaus) gang on 4 September this year when it downed a civil aircraft belonging to Afghan airlines using an American-made missile. One agent coolly filmed the firing of the missile and the planes' crash... There are more than 200 CIA agents in all operating in Afghanistan.

'UNPRECENDENTED' TRIBAL PROTESTS IN PAKISTAN

LD032319 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1751 GMT 3 Jan 86

[Text] Jalalabad (Afghanistan), 3 Jan (TASS) -- TASS correspondent Sergey Alayev reports:

Protests by the Shinwar and Afridi tribes in the Khyber Pass area are on a scale unprecedented in the past half century, Sulayman La'eq, PDPA Central Committee Politburo alternate member, DRA minister of nationalities and tribal affairs, said at a briefing for journalists which was held here. He stressed that the armed clashes that are continuing in the Khyber Agency (one of the eight so-called agencies into which the Pashtun settlement zone was artificially divided by the British colonial authorities in the last century) between Pakistani troops and the indigenous Pashtun population are the result of the tribes' dissatisfaction with the Islamabad regime's anti-Afghan policies.

As is known, participants in the Grand Assembly of border tribes held in Kabul last September adopted a number of decisions. Among them was a decision to not permit interference in Democratic Afghanistan's internal affairs through the tribal settlement territory, S. La'eq recalled. The tribal leaders held a tribal assembly after that at which it was demanded with absolute resoluteness that the use of tribal territory for waging the undeclared war against Afghanistan should cease. The Pashtuns' just demands evoked bitter anger on the part of the Pakistani authorities, who lost no time in sending regular army subunits into the area.

In carrying out its punitive actions, the Pakistani regime is attempting to neutralize the support which our Pashtun brothers are rendering Afghanistan, S. La'eq said. In violation of former agreements with the tribes, Islamabad is moving its troops into the immediate vicinity of the DRA borders. The minister indicated that the struggle of the tribes, who have risen to the defense of their vital interests, is winning more and more supporters in Pakistan itself, among members of the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy and other public organizations.

SHEVARDNADZE CONFERS WITH INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR

PM061045 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Jan 86 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Conversation with Ambassador"]

[Text] On 3 January E.A. Shevardnadze, USSR foreign minister, received R.G. Sugantio Kusomodigdo, Indonesian ambassador to the USSR. During their conversation, which proceeded in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and in a constructive spirit, there was an exchange of opinions on questions of Soviet-Indonesian relations and also certain topical problems concerning the international situation.

U.S. ATTEMPTS TO INFLUENCE PHILIPPINES ELECTIONS

LD042243 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 4 Jan 86

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] According to the Filipino press, the U.S. Embassy has recently stepped up its attempts to influence the election campaign which is now underway in the country. As President Marcos said, speaking in Manila, foreign interference in the internal affairs of the Philippines could lead to a further destabilization of the political situation. Marcos pointed out that attempts to alter the political balance of forces in the country are being carried out by means of diplomatic pressure and the use of intelligence organizations.

SRV MINISTERS VIEW U.S. REJECTION OF MORATORIUM

PM031240 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Jan 86 Second Edition p 3

[TASS report under the general heading "According With the Peoples' Aspirations" -- uppercase passages published in boldface]

[Text] Hanoi, 31 Dec -- The unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions introduced by the Soviet Union and other Soviet initiatives in this sphere are expanding the real opportunities for ending all types of nuclear explosions and for gradually stopping the arms race, SRV Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee Politburo, stated.

THE USSR'S PROPOSALS, he stated in an interview with a TASS correspondent, FULLY ACCORD WITH THE VITAL ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLES OF THE ENTIRE WORLD. Unfortunately, the good-will step taken by the Soviet Union has not yet produced the proper response in the United States. The Soviet Union's important initiative, the head of the SRV's foreign policy department stressed, is aimed at removing the threat of nuclear catastrophe hanging over the world's peoples. By rejecting the USSR's proposals the United States is committing a crime against mankind. In the new year, which has been declared peace year, we must step up the struggle to ensure the total prohibition of all types of nuclear explosions.

THE NEW NUCLEAR EXPLOSION HELD AT A NEVADA TEST SITE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SDI PROGRAM IS EVIDENCE OF THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION'S IRRESPONSIBLE APPROACH TO THE MOST IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS OF THE DAY, Van Tien Dung, member of the CPV Central Committee Politburo and SRV minister of national defense, stated.

The fact that the United States rejects the USSR's proposals on a moratorium and continues to carry out nuclear explosions necessitates increased vigilance from the peoples and an intensification of their struggle against U.S. imperialism's dangerous plans, Van Tien Dung stressed.

SRV DEFENSE MINISTER ON INDOCHINA COOPERATION

LD041726 Moscow TASS in English 1632 GMT 4 Jan 86

[Text] Hanoi, January 4 TASS -- TASS correspondent Ardrey Nizamutdinov reports:

The combative union of the countries of Indochina, an objective consequence of their joint struggle against aggressive actions of colonisers and imperialists, is one of the major factors that helped the peoples of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea gain their national independence, Van Tien Dung, a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and national defence minister, told TASS.

Close cooperation of the People's Armed Forces of Vietnam and Kampuchea is part and parcel of this union, he stressed. This cooperation has been developing and expanding ever since the criminal genocide regime was toppled in Kampuchea. The Vietnamese volunteers in the People's Republic of Kampuchea make a worthy contribution to the revival of the country, defending and building a new life on its soil.

Vietnam, Van Tien Dung continued, helps strengthen Kampuchea's Armed Forces for protecting the gains of the Kampuchean revolution. Fighting shoulder to shoulder with units of Vietnamese volunteers, the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Army has recently scored a number of important victories over Khmer reaction, which, drawing support from the forces of imperialism, is out to block Kampuchea's revival.

The Armed Forces of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, which are developing and growing stronger, will be able in the foreseeable future to tackle on their own the tasks of national defense. The growing might of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, including that in the military field, and the strengthening of its combat unity with socialist countries reaffirm the irreversibility of the situation in Kampuchea, and furnish proof of the futility of the attempts of the imperialist and other reactionary forces to subvert the building of a new life in the People's Republic of Kampuchea, the defense minister said.

'TENSE' SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA VIEWED

LD031828 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1245 GMT 3 Jan 86

["Supporters and Opponents of Dialogue in Southeast Asia" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 3 Jan (TASS) -- The situation in Southeast Asia remains tense and even dangerous while relations between the countries of Indochina and ASEAN are far from being normal and are, if anything, confrontational in nature, says an article published in the first issue this year of the MEZHDUNARODNAYA ZHIZN journal.

Since the present U.S. Administration came to power, U.S. policy in Southeast Asia has been sharply expanded. It regards this region today not just as an important link in the chain of U.S. military bases in the Indian Ocean and the Pacific, but also as a new [passage indistinct].

Economic levers have also been actively put into operation. The United States is the largest creditor of ASEAN countries and the second largest -- after Japan -- trade partner (in 1984 the bolume of their mutual trade turnover was $26.4 billion. U.S. activity in getting round ASEAN members in the military sphere is also growing from year to year. Over the last 10 years alone the extent of U.S. military "assistance" to the aforementioned states exceeded $3 billion.

Japan conducts a policy toward the ASEAN countries which is tightly coordianted with Washington. Tokyo of course has to take into account the fact that the memory of Japanese occupation is still alive among member countries of the organization and those countries show great suspicion of Japan's present policy and the growth of militaristic tendencies there. In noting the negative features in the activity of the association one must nevertheless acknowledge that among its participants, primarily among moderate countries -- Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines -- there is an ever greater understanding of the danger of the adventuristic course, fraught with the threat of the emergence of a major international conflict, which the United States and its accomplices are pushing the association toward.

In applying efforts to attain a political settlement of disputed problems in that region the countries of Indochina are expressing a readiness to conduct a fruitful dialogue with ASEAN states on the basis of equality and mutual respect of each others' lawful interests, without interference from outside.

The SRV, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Cambodia have been proposing a whole series of concrete initiatives. In particular, they have expressed agreement with the ASEAN idea of creating zones of peace, freedom and neutrality in Southeast Asia as the basis for discussion on turning the region into a zone of peace and stability. Generally the idea of dialogue continues to live in the association. M. Mohamad, the Malaysian prime minister having noted recently that ASEAN's present position with regard to Cambodia is not attracting the attention of the international public, called on his partners to carefully study the reasons for such a situation. "We," he stressed, "should make a more active study of all possibilities for reaching a political settlement which must be fair, productive, and lasting."

LPRP SECRETARY EXAMINES BUCHAREST CP MEETING

BK041459 Moscow in Lao to Laos 1030 GMT 1 Jan 86

["Views of Saman Vi-Gnaket, secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) Committee, on the recent conference of secretaries of the central committees of the communist and workers parties of the fraternal socialist countries in Bucharest" -- date not given; recorded]

[Text] The conference of secretaries of the central committees of the communist and workers parties of the countries in the socialist family was held in Bucharest, the Socialist Republic of Romania, on 19 and 20 December 1985. The conference was successfully concluded.

Convened after the recent Soviet-U.S. summit in Geneva, the conference concentrated efforts on consolidating the unification among the fraternal parties on many current important issues so as to map out plans to coordinate their political, ideological and propaganda movements in the socialist countries and in the international arena, aimed at vigorously promoting the struggle for peace, first of all by halting the arms race on the ground and the militarization of the outer space.

The fraternal parties -- our LPRP included -- postively made contributions to further enhancing the outcome of the Soviet-U.S. summit in Geneva and implementing the joint communique issued by the leaders of the Warsaw Pact member countries at a recent conference held in Sofia.

With regard to this development, the LPRP regards the Geneva summit between Comrade CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan, in which a joint statement was issued on certain important measures to halt the danger of a nuclear was so as to safeguard peace and on the unanimous views of the two sides to normalize Soviet-U.S. relations which was deteriorating following the U.S. Administration's decision to carry out a policy of confrontation against the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, as the victory of the Leninist policy of peace was pursued by the Soviet Union and the socialist community.

Our party unanimously agreed with the other fraternal parties that in the future, we must carry out more movements in various forms in this direction not only in Europe, but also in all regions of the world, including Southeast Asia and the Pacific region. To achieve this goal, we must continue to resolutely expose the schemes of the imperialists and reactionaries in making preparations to wage a war and to oppose all maneuvers to distort and discredit the correct policy pursued by the socialist countries. We must unite with all progressive and peace-loving forces throughout the world in the struggle for the survival of mankind.

In addition, the conference also reached a unanimous agreement on many other important issues aimed at vigorously encouraging all the fraternal parties to carry out ideological training in a more effective manner so as to resist the schemes of the imperialists and reactionaries in trying to revive old and new facism, nationalism, and other ideological lines running counter to socialism and to oppose their slanderous campaings against socialism by exploiting the human rights concept as the pretext.

We are very proud to see that the fraternal parties reached unanimity on these issues. We are very happy to make some small contributions to the success of this conference.

ANTONOV ASSESSES USSR-POLISH TIES WITH JARUZELSKI

LD031804 Warsaw Television Service in Polish 1620 GMT 3 Jan 86

[Text] Wojciech Jaruzelski has received Aleksey Antonov, USSR Council of Ministers deputy chairman, who is in Poland. During the conversation, past cooperation as well as the decisions regarding its further development which were approved during the coordination of the Polish-Soviet plans for the coming 5 years, were assessed positively. Wojciech Jaruzelski stressed that Poland saw an extremely important factor for our state's socioeconomic development in their implementation.

Visits Metallurgical Combines

PM061043 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 4 Jan 86 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "With the Assistance of Friends"]

[Text] Warsaw, 3 January -- The initiation of a new shop took place at the "Katowice" Metallurgical Combine, the largest in Poland, which was built with the technical assistance of the USSR. The shop's basic equipment and the technical documentation came from the Soviet Union. The shop will produce approximately 250,000 metric tons of rails of enhanced reliability and quality each year. A significant proportion of its products is destined for export to the USSR.

A Soviet delegation visiting Poland and headed by A.K. Antonov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, participated in the initiation ceremony. On the Polish side, Z. Szalajda and W. Gwiazda, deputy premiers of the Polish Council of Ministers, took part.

Addressing those present, Z. Szalajda stressed that building the new shop ahead of schedule had been possible thanks to close Soviet-Polish cooperation and the comprehensive assistance of the Soviet specialists working on the construction of this project. He expressed ardent gratitude to the USSR representatives. A.K. Antonov spoke at the ceremony.

On the same day, the Soviet delegation participated in the opening of a new shop at the "Pokoj" Metallurgical Plant in the town of Ruda Slaska near Katowice. This modern complex was also built with the assistance of the Soviet Union.

Z. Messner, chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers, received the head of the Soviet delegation here. The sides discussed the start of economic cooperation between the Soviet Union and Poland, and outlined tasks for the immediate future. In the course of the meeting, implementation of the Long-Term Program for the Development of Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the USSR and Poland for the Period up to the Year 2000 received a positive appraisal.

LEADERSHIP THANKS CEAUSESCU, DASCALESCU FOR MESSAGE

AU291949 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 20 Dec 85 p 4

[Text] To Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP secretary general and president of the SR of Romania and to Comrade Constantin Dascalescu, prime minister of the Government of the SR of Romania.

On behalf of the Soviet People, the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the Council of Ministers thank the RCP Central Committee, the Government of the SR of Romania, and to you personally for the greetings and good wishes you extended to us on the occasion of the 68th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

We express our belief that the comprehensive development of the fraternal friendly relations and cooperation between the CPSU and the RCP and between the Soviet Union and Romania, as well as their close cooperation within the Warsaw Pact and CEMA are fully in keeping with the interests of the people living in our countries, of the entire socialist community, and ensure a lasting peace and international security.

The CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

SUPREME SOVIET DECORATES BULGARIA'S DZHUROV

LD041637 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 4 Jan 86

[Text] The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has awarded the Order of Lenin to Dobri Dzhurov, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, Minister of National Defense of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, in recognition of his great contribution to the comradeship in arms of the Armed Forces of the USSR and the Bulgarian People's Army, and on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

LIGACHEV MEETS WITH ITALIAN CP OFFICIALS

LD032015 Moscow TASS in English 1757 GMT 3 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, January 3 TASS -- Ye.K. Ligachev, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee today received Gerardo Chiaromonte and Giovanni Cervetti, members of the leadership of the Italian Communist Party. A warm and friendly conversation was held during which the sides discussed questions of mutual interest to both parties.

RESPONSE TO UK INVOLVEMENT IN SDI EXAMINED

PM031515 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Jan 86 Morning Edition p 5

[Dispatch by own correspondent A. Krivopalvo: "Britain 1986; Counter to the Spirit of the Times"]

[Text] London -- The London press has published reports on the resumption in the near future of VOA broadcasting to Britain. The fact that this verbal radiation of the British public was halted in the fifties is now regarded by official Washington propagandists as an "error." The question is decided in advance.

It is significant that they have decided across the ocean to carry out this restoration and add a new mouthpiece to the U.S. propaganda arsenal which already exists in Britain. Public feeling and above all resistance to the Washington "hawks' " aggressive plans cannot fail to alarm U.S. strategists. To change the situation in its favor, Washington has developed an operation to restore VOA's radio vocal chords.

This operation has been launched and will be implemented at a time when official London increasingly prefers, as a model student in the Atlantic clan, to heed its mentor's peremptory orders and mindlessly repeat the lesson dictated by it.

This is, to put it mildly, a unique line of conduct for a state capable of playing far from the least role in Europe and the international arena as a whole. Withdrawing from UNESCO in the wake of the United States and being the first West European U.S. ally to associate itself to the "star wars" program have shown clearly that the Voice of America (without a captial "v") sounds like an order for the present British leaders.

The Washington administration cannot totally ignore public feelings in its own house which, especially since the Geneva summit meeting, have been inclining increasingly and markedly in favor of abandoning the extension of the arms race into space. That is why, some British newspapers believe, London's immediate agreement -- blatantly counter to the "spirit of Geneva" and the demands of the time -- to Britain's formal involvement in SDI was needed.

The political operation carried out by the Pentagon on the banks of the Thames should present Washington with "documentary" evidence of the fact that Western Europe is almost entreating the United States: "Give us a space shield because we cannot do without the 'star wars' program." Motivating its association to SDI by the desire "not to lag behind progress," the British leadership would like by its action to persuade other Western European governments to follow the same path.

For several months, while there was backstage talk of the terms of Britain's association in the "star wars" program, the British were being strenuously indoctrinated with propaganda. Attempts were made to persuade them that thanks to this "purely commercial" agreement British firms would receive very advantageous contracts and tens of thousands of people in the country would get work. But everything here was subordinated to concealing the truth.

Despite all Defense Secretary Heseltine's ploys to get a promise from the United States to place big orders in Albion (at first specific figures with a great many noughts were cited), they played a cat and mouse game with him. A "memorandum of understanding" was signed, but the United States has no intention of sharing the SDI cake with the British.

Indeed, there have been similar cases in the past. When Britain agreed with the United States on equipping its armed forces with Tridents, the junior partner was also promised mountains of gold, but its industry received virtually no important contracts for the project. The same thing will undoubtedly happen with the implementation of the "star wars" program.

However, here it is a case not of thoughtless blunders but of carefully considered calculations. Despite recent public assurances of its loyalty to the ideas of detente and the principles of good-neighborliness in Europe, the British Government seems to have no intention of turning from words to deeds. While the broad British public welcomed with hope and approval the results of the Soviet-U.S. dialogue initiated in Geneva, the Tory government is displaying a lack of interest in actively joining the course toward detente. The conservative authorities are evidently finding it inconvenient to resolve the acute domestic problems they are now encountering under the conditions of a calm, warmer climate in the outside world.

The newspaper THE FINANCIAL TIMES, which does not usually engage in cheap speculation, has written frankly and repeatedly that one of the main aims of SDI is to divert the USSR's economy from efforts to improve the Soviet people's prosperity and quality of life. The FINANCIAL TIMES also acknowledged the realistic and well-founded nature of the USSR's proposals in the disarmament sphere. But, knowing the government's true intentions, the newspaper long ago predicted the conclusion of an SDI deal.

The reaction to the signing of the Anglo-U.S. agreement on "cooperation" in the "star wars" program was stormy and it is obvious that matters will not end with a mere expression of indignation on the opposition's part. It may be expected that resistance to the government's diplomatic line, which runs counter to the country's national interests, will grow. It is just as legitimate to presuppose something else -- the toughening of the Tories' stance on this question in conjunction with intensified propaganda cover for it.

The sober voices which are being heard increasingly and loudly in Britain are exposing the falsity of claims concerning the defensive nature of SDI and the unscrupulousness of those who uphold the thesis of the "usefulness" of the "star wars" program to the British.

During the parliamentary debates the "shadow cabinet's" defense secretary, D. Davies, recently stated that Reagan's "initiative" is causing considerable erosion of Britain's independent defense policy. Addressing M. Heseltine, he said frankly: "Your department and the Foreign Office are rapidly becoming overseas branches of the Pentagon and the White House." In one interview Davies stressed that Britain has now become an official participant in the "star wars" program which threatens to lead to "an even greater escalation of the arms race and its transfer into outer space."

An increasing number of British people are beginning to understand that the "star wars" program presents the main threat to the destiny of peace and security and the main obstacle on the path to achieving agreements on nuclear arms limitation. Even at the government level voices are sometimes heard in London recognizing the very dangerous military aspects of the U.S. plan. M. Rifkind, British minister of state for foregin affairs, asserts that universal anxiety is generated by the fact that having ensured its invulnerability and checked that not a single missile will penetrate U.S. territory via the established barrier, the United States could try to "do something else," to use space weapons for offensive purposes.

Not so long ago I talked with a senior British member of parliament. He talked a lot about the "star wars" program and expressed the fear that an unsolicited "space shield" would not only fail to safeguard British people's security but would, on the contrary, create an enhanced danger to Britain. It must not be forgotten my interlocutor stressed, that a U.S. nuclear-missile potential designed to deliver a first strike is deployed in the British Isles. The implementation of the "star wars" plans will give rise to retaliatory measures from the other side. With all the ensuing consequences for Britain.

The majority of British people oppose the aggressive U.S. program to which their country is now associated. You are convinced of this by public opinion polls, the discussions of foreign policy issues which have occupied an important place in the work of the conference of the opposition parties, above all the Laborites, and personal meetings with ordinary people. But their opinion and feelings have been spurned in the most flagrant and provocative manner.

At almost the same time as the announcement that the SDI agreement had been signed in London, a report arrived from across the ocean on the holding of a British nuclear explosion in Nevada with U.S. assistance. You involuntarily want to connect these two events. The conservative government is joining in actions which undermine the hopes of easing international tension. It is thus assuming enormous responsibility, and not only to its own people, who have grown tired of the policy of confrontation and the propaganda of hatred and distrust, of the arms race, and of fear in the face of the development of military preparations in the British Isles.

REACTIONS TO CARRINGTON VISIT, SPAIN'S NATO POLICY

TASS Analyst Krasikov Comments

LD031920 Moscow TASS in English 1856 GMT 3 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, January 3 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Anatoliy Krasikov writes:

The beginning of 1986 which has been declared by the U.N. as the Year of Peace was marked for Spain by a visit to that country of the NATO Secretary General Lord Carrington. He visited Madrid with the aim to support advocates of Spain's membership in that military-political alliance which had been knocked together by the U.S. in 1949 for openly anti-Soviet purposes (The Warsaw Treaty was concluded by socialist countries six years later, in 1955, after West Germany had been included in NATO).

Over 100 peace proposals submitted by the Warsaw Treaty states for the consideration of the NATO member states included those which provided for the simultaneous disbanding of both alliances or at least the giving up of their further expansion.

However, the acceptance of those proposals would mean the turning down of the strategy of tension, the establishment and consolidation of normal relations among states with different social systems, which obviously ran counter to the plans of those who counted on the inevitability of a war.

Right from the beginning the U.S. has intended to draw Spain into NATO. However, the opposition of West European governments who had to take into account the attitude of the public to the Franco regime was an obstacle to the implementation of those plans. This is why starting from 1953 Washington had to confine itself to concluding bilateral agreements on military cooperation which promoted to a considerable extent the preservation of the Franco regime.

The death of Franco and the disintegration of the dictatorial regime permitted NATO leaders to get back to the first version. The first chairman of the Spanish Government Adolfo Suarez was in no hurry to break with the tradition according to which Spain had never before formed military alliances with other countries. The toppling of Suarez in 1981 and his replacement by pro-American politician Calvo Sotelo removed the last obstacles on the way to the implementation of U.S. plans. The talks that were started in 1981 ended in 1982, year with Spain officially joining NATO.

At that time not only the overwhelming majority of Spaniards (according to the results of all the public opinion polls), but also the more influential opposition organizations, including the Spanish Socialist Labour Party, opposed Spain's membership in NATO. Before the 1982 general elections, Socialists campaigned on the slogan of non-participation in NATO, and it is this slogan that helped them to win the elections.

At the first after coming to office, the socialists "froze" the process of integration in NATO before the nationwide referendum they had promised to the electors. However, the referendum was postponed year after year pending a suitable time for it. At last the date of the referendum has been named, but the Socialists have given up their former stand and have decided to urge Spaniards to vote for the membership in the North Atlantic bloc with only one reservation -- without the putting of the Spanish Armed Forces under the direct command of U.S. General Rogers.

What was the purpose of Lord Carrington's visit to Madrid? This question was answered, to some extent, by THE NEW YORK TIMES which wrote last month that NATO and the U.S. official circles regretted the present-day developments. They fear that the referendum will not only bring about Spain's withdrawal from NATO, but will also become a precedent for other NATO member states, for example, Greece.

The same as in 1949, the pursuit of military superiority, real or illusory one, is more important to the U.S. Government and the NATO leaders than the search for peace on the basis of bringing down the level of military confrontation.

Visit Objectives Detailed

LD042035 Moscow in Spanish to Spain 2200 GMT 3 Jan 86

[Text] Citizens of the Spanish capital welcomed Lord Carrington, secretary-general of NATO, with mass demonstrations and slogans such as "No to NATO" and "Down With the U.S. bases." Our observer Yuriy Konstantinov writes:

These were protest demonstrations against the obvious interference of NATO and Washington in Spain's internal affairs and against their attempts to drag the country at any cost into the military structure of NATO. Lord Carrington's visit was certainly not simply one of protocol as they have tried to make it out at the NATO general headquarters. The objectives of the visit were obvious. Several days before the visit in question the secretary-general of NATO said frankly that he wanted to see Spain represented in all the Atlantic forums, including the military forum.

Commenting on Carrington's talks in Madrid the Spanish newspapers say that the visit by the NATO envoy was motivated by the patent disquiet and irritation prevailing among the leadership of the North Atlantic Alliance because of the Spanish Government's promise to hold a national referendum on NATO in the spring and also because of the mass actions in the country in support of Spain's withdrawal from this military bloc.

It is, then, one more pressure on the Socialist government which is aimed at forcing it to renounce its Altanticist formula of remaining in NATO's political set-up, but at the same time blocking incorporation into its military structure. NATO and Washington officials are no longer satisfied with Spain participating in the work of the bloc's Nuclear Planning Committee [words indistinct] of the North Atlantic Alliance.

NATO headquarters ignores the view of millions of Spaniards who are convinced that the Atlantic bloc promotes a policy of confrontation and the arms race. It rejects the constructive proposals of the Soviet Union and other socialist states which point to detente, disarmament and broad international cooperation in the interests of peace and security. The policy of confrontation and the aggravation of tension have nothing in common with the interests of Spain's security. For this reason the thousands of demonstrators assembled in the Plaza Mayor were protesting against the visit by the NATO envoy. The newspaper EL PAIS described the visit as ominous while representatives of several antiwar organizations, among them the Association for Spain's Withdrawal from NATO, declared Lord Carrington to be persona non grata.

Madrid Demonstrations Reported

LD060051 Moscow in Spanish to Spain 2200 GMT 5 Jan 86

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In Madrid there were multitudinous protest meetings and impetuous antiwar demonstrations with the arrival to the capital of Lord Carrington, a NATO emissary. The reasons for the visit to Madrid by the secretary general of the North Atlantic Alliance hold nothing good for the Spaniards. He did not conceal that his main objective is to put pressure on the Socialist government and to make it revoke the national referendum on the membership of this bloc. Of course, he is aware that the Moncloa administration, besides agreeing to continue to be a NATO member, is against its integration into the military institutions of the bloc.

According to the Spanish press Carrington made a big effort to tie Spain to the NATO military structure with all the commitments which it involves. Today this is at the center of the majority of the Spanish press which commented on Lord Carrington's negotiations in Madrid in a negative way. According to CAMBIO 16 the NATO emissary insists that Spain's membership in NATO, if it is to be the subject of the referendum as the socialists promised, leaves the door open for the future integration into the military structure. EL PAIS says that in the negotiations in Madrid, Lord Carrington is trying to convince the Moncloa administration that Spain can (?only win) by being a member of NATO.

The Spanish dailies published Carrington's statements at a press conference. He said that Spain represents a very important link for the North Atlantic Alliance and added that NATO would be weaker if the country withdraws from the North Atlantic community. Moreover Lord Carrington promised the Moncloa administration, as many times in the past, to help them to solve such a pressing problem for Spain as the one of Gibraltar.

In short the Spanish press does not show any joy on the occasion of the visit to Spain by Lord Carrington, the NATO secretary general, (?because) it has nothing to do with the interests of Spain's security.

FRG WAGING 'UNDECLARED WAR' AGAINST AFGHANISTAN

LD021938 Moscow TASS in English 1838 GMT 2 Jan 86

["Methods of Terror and Slander" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, January 2 TASS -- TASS news analyst Aleksey Grigoryev writes:

According to a report of the news agency BAKHTAR, the charges d'affaires of the FRG in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan was called into Afghanistan's Foreign Ministry to be handed over a note of protest against the unprecedented hostile campaign unleashed by the West German ruling circles with regard to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, against overt complicity of the FRG reactionary forces with the terroristic activity of counterrevolutionary gangs.

It could not be overlooked that the last months of 1985 saw a new upsurge of the anti-Afghan campaign in the West in general, and in the FRG in particular. This campaign was, as ever, orchestrated by the Washington administration. But allegations about the policy of Afghanistan and the USSR, insistent calls for further interference in the internal affairs of the democratic Republic of Afghanistan, outright deception of the public opinion about the real state of affairs in Afghanistan and around it are in abundance on the banks of the Rhine, too. In the note of the Foreign Ministry of the DRA, Bonn was brought to book for this hostile activity. The examples of this activity are anti-Afghan pronouncements by the FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Minister for Economic Cooperation Juergen Warnke and other politicians of the country which, by the way, has diplomatic relations with the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Another example of this hostile activity is broad support for all sort of spy missions to the territory of sovereign Afghanistan. Donning an oriental robe, Bundestag deputy from the CDU Juergen Todenhoefer thrice got into Afghanistan with gangs from Pakistan. Upon returning to the FRG he used the press and television to spread blatant lies about the home and foreign policy of democratic Afghanistan. And now that parliamentary opened "preparatory courses on matters of propaganda" for 60 ringleaders of the Afghan counterrevolution. [as received]

And accomplices of the Afghan counterrevolution in the FRG are acting not only by slandering the Afghan revolution and the Soviet Union's internationalist aid. The West German patrons of Afghan counterrevolutionaries also made a considerable material contribution to the undeclared war against the DRA. The note of the DRA Foreign Ministry reports that the granting to the Afghan counterrevolutionaries of two million West German marks through the mediation of Pakistan has become a new step in the escalation of that war. It is easy to guess how those funds will be spent: on U.S. rockets, the same as the one that shot down an Afghan passenger plane in the area of Qandahar, on explosives for bloody crimes like those that were staged in Kabul's airport and politechnical institute in December, on weapons by means of which bandits are subjecting to terror peasants who got land, children, who opened primers, clergymen who support the new life.

Are these not glaring violations of human rights? Is this not real genocide? But they on the Rhine preferred to disregard such questions. They hypocritically lament "sufferings of Afghans" and cynically give moral and material backing to terrorists, saboteurs, bandits waging an armed struggle against the Afghan people. The undeclared war against Afghanistan, this is the only way to describe Bonn's policy.

SWEDISH CP CHAIRMAN VIEWS INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

LD282124 Moscow TASS in English 2024 GMT 28 Dec 85

[Text] Stockholm, December 28 TASS -- Despite complex and explosive international situation which is aggravated through the fault of the imperialist forces, a new world war can be prevented, Rolf Hagel, chairman of the Swedish Workers' Communist Party said in an interview to the newspaper NORRSKENSFLAMMAN.

Summing up the results of the outgoing war, he emphasized particularly the importance of the recent Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Geneva for the destinies of peace. The results of the talks between the leaders of the USSR and the USA are well known, R. Hagel said. The Geneva arrangements must be filled with concrete contents in the new year. The implementation of the proposal to create a nuclear free zone in the north of Europe would become a step in this direction.

It is necessary to enlist the trade union movement, democratic circles and organizations to the struggle to achieve real results in curbing the arms race and preventing the militarisation of outer space.

The main obstacle to disarmament and ending the arms race on earth is the fact that the United States is striving at any cost to put weapons into space to achieve the military superiority over the Soviet Union. The militarisation of space represents a new growing threat to entire humanity and it is necessary to do everything to prevent the implementation of these plans of the USA. It is also necessary to declare resolutely against the deployment of U.S. nuclear missiles in Western Europe, R. Hagel stressed. Their deployment turns the territories of a number of West European countries into launch pads for those offensive weapons targeted on socialist countries.

KING HUSAYN MEETING WITH SYRIA'S AL-ASAD ENDS

PM031603 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Jan 86 Morning Edition p 1

[Dispatch by own correspondent V. Lashkul: "Syria-Jordan: For Convening a Conference"]

[Text] Damascus -- The King of Jordan's official visit to the Syrian capital has ended.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Husayn, the head of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, discussed the Near East situation. They expressed themselves in favor of convening a representative international conference on a Near East settlement under UN auspices with the participation of the PLO and all interested sides.

PLO'S QADDUMI DENIES PLO-USSR 'DIFFERENCES'

LD041831 Moscow International Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Jan 86

[Text] News from Abu Dhabi says that PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi, at a press conference there, has categorically denied the existence of any differences between the Soviet Union and the PLO. Faruq Qaddumi said that the Soviet Union and the PLO have never had any differences and termed relations between them as good.

FURTHER REPORTS ON AFTERMATH OF AIRPORT ATTACKS

Libyan U.N. Statement

LD031115 Moscow TASS in English 1016 GMT 3 Jan 86

[Text] New York, January 3 TASS -- Libya has drawn the attention of the world community to dangerous machinations of the United States and Israel which are preparing aggression against that Arab state. In conducting its outrageous anti-Libyan campaign, says a statement by the People's Bureau for External Relations, distributed as an official document of the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations, the U.S. Government is seeking to expand the sphere of conflict and involve in it countries that have no differences or disputes with Libya.

The document says that Libya's stance on international terrorism is well-known: It condemns and rejects any acts which cause damage to innocent people and threaten their life. Libyan laws prohibit and denounce such acts and provide for the strictest measures to punish terrorists. The current hostile campaign is an integral part of the preparations for armed aggression against Libya.

Libya realizes the scope of the danger and is fully resolved to defend itself, the statement stresses.

Syria Continues 'Readiness'

LD041247 Moscow TASS in English 1230 GMT 4 Jan 86

[Text] Damascus, January 4 TASS -- Syria confirms its readiness to use all political, military and other means at its disposal to give support to fraternal Libya in repelling any aggression, says a statement by an official spokesman for the Syrian Arab Republic published here.

The statement indicates that the United States and Israel continue with their escalation of impudent threats against the sovereign country. The massive anti-Libyan campaign is in pursuit of setting the stage to prepare international public opinion for a possible armed action in the region under the notorious pretext of "combatting terrorism." These intrigues by the U.S. military, however, have nothing in common with counteraction to terrorism and aim to intimidate the Arab peoples, force them retreat [as received] before Washington's hegemonic schemes by giving up the struggle for the national rights.

The statement criticizes the hypocritical stand of the White House which encourages Israel's daily crimes against the peaceful population of southern Lebanon and its actions to foster genocide in the occupied territories for decades. The statement underlines anew the vanity of the attempts to impose defeatist plans of the Middle East settlement on the peoples of the region.

Cypriot-Libyan Group Denunciation

LD041641 Moscow TASS in English 1605 GMT 4 Jan 86

[Text] Nicosia, January 4 TASS -- The Cypriot-Libyan Friendship Society has issued a statement denouncing the joint plans of Israel and the United States to attack Libya. The statement says that following the failure of its attempts at setting Arab countries against Libya and imposing an economic blockade of West European countries against that country, the United States has apparently taken a decision to stage aggression against Libya.

The Cypriot-Libyan Friendship Society calls upon all progressive and democratic forces of the Mediterranean for displaying vigilance and giving a rebuff to U.S. provocations. The society also urges the progressive quarters of Cyprus, whose people well know from their own experience the consequences of the U.S. imperialist policy, to counter the terrorist actions by the United States and its Zionist allies in the area of the Mediterranean Sea.

FRG Rejects Sanctions Demand

LD041832 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1730 GMT 4 Jan 86

[Text] The FRG Government has rejected any economic sanctions whatsoever in relation to Libya. The U.S. Administration had demanded its West European allies introduce economic sanctions. However Washington's pressure has met with a negative reaction on the part of Europe.

Kuwait Rejects Threat

LD042108 Moscow TASS in English 2026 GMT 4 Jan 86

[Text] Paris, January 4 TASS -- Kuwait informed the United States today that it rejected any threat from a foreign power against an Arab country and opposed any manifestation of terrorism, AFP reports from Kuwait, quoting official sources. The Kuwaiti position was presented by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, a deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of Kuwait, to the U.S. ambassador to the country. The Kuwaiti foreign minister told the U.S. ambassador that his country was against terrorism but that it at the same time rejected threats in any form against any Arab country. AFP says that on Thursday Kuwait criticized Washington's appeal to its allies to join it in isolating Libya. Kuwait believes that the American threat to Libya constitutes a violation of international accords and escalation of violence, a spokesman for the Kuwait Foreign Ministry said.

Solidarity Committee Condemnation

PM061154 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Jan 86 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Resolute Condemnation"]

[Text] The open threats against Libya issued recently by Israeli and U.S. officials are seriously concerning the Soviet public. This was remarked in a statement by the Soviet Committee for Solidarity With Asian and African Countries. The thesis of the "struggle against terrorism" is again being used quite groundlessly and deliberately as a pretext for whipping up an anti-Libyan campaign. During the recent tragic events in Malta people in Washington made considerable efforts to nudge Egypt and Libya into an armed conflict. However, these perfidious plans failed to materialize. Now a new dangerous plot is being prepared, this time with the participation of the U.S. "strategic ally" -- Israel -- whose leaders are trying hard to pin responsibility for the recent acts of terrorism at Rome and Vienna airports on Libya.

The peace-loving public perceives with alarm the reports that the Israeli Air Force is preparing to strike against Palestinian camps and other targets in the Arab countries. At the same time reports have appeared that military scenarios are being drawn up in the Pentagon which could be used against Libya with the participation of aircraft and subunits from the U.S. Delta Force special troops. Thus it becomes clear that Washington and Tel Aviv, whipping up a hostile campaign against Libya, are preparing the ground for new aggressive anti-Arab actions.

Soviet people, the statement notes, expressing their solidarity with the people of the Libyan Jamahiriyah which is courageously defending its national sovereignty, resolutely demand that the campaign of provocations and threats against this Arab country and the attempts to interfere in its domestic affairs be stopped.

TV Shows Demonstrations

LD052006 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 5 Jan 86

[From the "Vremya" newscast; announcer-read report]

[Text] Protest demonstrations continue in Libya against the background of preparations by the United States and Israel for armed aggression against that country. There have been mass demonstrations in the towns of Benghazi, Janzur, and Al-Kufrah. Statements by those who took part express firm resolve to defend the homeland against the hostile encroachments of U.S. imperialism and Zionism.

Arab League Condemns U.S.

LD051751 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 5 Jan 86

[Yevgeniy Lukyanov report]

[Text] The campaign of threats and blackmail against the Libyan Jamahiriyah unleashed by the United States and Israel has been greeted with indignation in the Arab world. Our correspondent for the northern African countries Yevgeniy Lukyanov reports from the Algerian capital:

The League of Arab states has emphatically condemned the threats of the United States of using armed force against Libya and has stated that it will stand firmly on the side of any Arab country which is threatened by aggression. Participants in an extraordinary session of the council of the organization, who have gathered in the capital of Tunisia, expressed readiness to give support to Libya in the event of an act of aggression against it by the United States or Israel, in a statement they have adopted. Egypt and Kuwait have issued warnings to Washington and Tel Aviv on this matter. The Syrian newspaper AL-THAWRAH and the Kuwaiti AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM stress in this connection that aggression by the United States or Israel against sovereign Libya will be viewed by them as nothing other than aggression against the whole Arab world. The issue of possible armed action against Libya by the United States and Israel, and opposition to it, will be discussed at a session of the ministers of foreign affairs of countries participating in the Islamic Conference Organization which opens tomorrow in Fes.

Complicity Charge Rejected

LD052227 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2013 GMT 5 Jan 86

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Al-Turayki, secretary of the General People's Committee for the People's Bureau of Foreign Liaison of Libya, speaking in Tunis, has categorically rejected the accusation of Libya's complicity in the terrorist acts which took place in Rome and Vienna. He emphasized the Libyan Jamahiriyah's resolve to rebuff the intrigues of imperialist circles. 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and Hafiz al-Asad, the leaders of Democratic Yemen and Syria, expressed their readiness to place all the means they have at the disposal of the Libyan Jamahiriyah, in the course of telephone talks with Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Libyan Revolution, to repulse possible aggression from the United States and Israel.

Al-Qadhdhafi Warning Cited

LD061011 Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 6 Jan 86

[Text] The Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has warned that any aggression against Libya will be resolutely rebuffed by the people of this country. He granted an interview to foreign newsmen on Sunday [5 January]. According to news agencies, foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization will meet in Fes, Morocco, today to discuss the U.S. and Israeli threats against Libya. The United States and Israel have charged Libya with involvement in recent acts of terrorism in the airports of Rome and Vienna. Using this pretext, various versions of military actions against Libya, including direct intervention, are planned. The NEW YORK POST says the naval and air bases of the United States and NATO in the Mediterranean have been alerted. The leaves of all American servicemen in Italy and other West European countries have been cancelled. The Pentagon has already prepared a list of targets for a possible attack on Libya. The press in Arab countries is saying that the actions of the United States and Israel are striking manifestations of the policy of state terrorism.

Military Alert Explained

LD060832 Moscow TASS in English 0819 GMT 6 Jan 86

[Text] Tripoli, January 6 TASS -- The leader of the Libyan revolution, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, voiced the resolve of the Libyan people to repulse any outside aggression. The United States, he told American journalists, has started a very dangerous gamble in the Mediterranean.

It had concentrated at least 40 warships against Libya by January 4. In this situation, al-Qadhdhafi said, we have had to put our Air Force, Navy and Air defence forces on combat alert, which will be called off only after the U.S.-Israeli threat to Libya has been removed.

Syrian Minister Criticizes U.S.

LD061018 Moscow TASS in English 0832 GMT 6 Jan 86

[Text] Damascus, January 6 TASS -- Syrian Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh denounced the plans of Washington and its "strategic ally" Israel to carry out an armed action against the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

The minister noted in an interview carried by Syrian newspapers that imperialism, Zionism and reaction had been trying on more than one occasion to victimize Libya under the false pretext of "struggle against terrorism." As for the purposes pursued by the unseemly anti-Libya farce, they are, as everyone knows, to aggravate the military and political situation in the region to the utmost, to intimidate Arab countries and to force them to bow to U.S.-Israeli capitulatory plans for settlement in the Middle East, the minister says.

The newspaper TISHRIN says in this context that Washington and Tel Aviv are hatching a joint act of aggression against the Arabs. The USA and its chief partner in the Middle East would like to thwart an agreement reached in Lebanon on normalising the domestic political situation and ending the civil war, to weaken Syria, which is in the vanguard of the opposition of the Arab peoples to neo-colonialist conspiracies, and to crush the progressive regime in the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

U.S. 'Might Use' UK-Based Planes

LD061031 Moscow TASS in English 1002 GMT 6 Jan 86

[Text] London, January 6 TASS -- News that the United States might use its warplanes based in Britain to deliver an air strike at Libya has surfaced in Britain and outraged its people. In a statement concerning the matter the spokesman for the opposition Labour Party on questions of defence Denzil Davies said the U.S. State Department had made it clear that if the Americans decided to use the planes Britain would be unable to prevent them from doing so even despite the fact that the planes were based on British soil. Denzil Davies demanded an immediate explanation from the Tory Government.

LEADERSHIP SENDS NATIONAL DAY GREETINGS TO CASTRO

LD311531 Moscow TASS in English 1502 GMT 31 Dec 85

[Text] Moscow, December 31 TASS -- The CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the USSR Council of Ministers have addressed a message of greetings to Fidel Castro Ruz, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, chairman of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba. The message says:

"Dear Comrade Fidel Castro,

"On the occasion of the national holiday -- the liberation day, we are sending to you personally, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, and the fraternal Cuban people our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes.

"It is with satisfaction that we note that the people of Socialist Cuba is meeting its revolutionary holiday full of strength and vigour, of new creative plans and historical optimism. Much experience has been accumulated under the leadership of the Communist Party of building new society, skilled personnel dedicated to the cause of socialism has been trained. [sentence as received]

"All this makes it possible to resolve new tasks of a large scope, to make life of the working people ever more and more fuller-blooded, to enrich the contents of the broad social and political rights of the personality, which are guaranteed by the people's power.

"In celebrating the anniversary of the glorious Cuban revolution, which opened a new stage in the age-long history of the struggle waged by the peoples of Latin America for their genuine liberation, the Cuban communists, all the working people of the republic are preparing for the third congress of the Communist Party of Cuba, which is to sum up the results of the road covered and open new prospects in the country's economic, social and cultural development.

"Together with you, the Soviet people are proud that Cuba is one of the authoritative states in the world arena. Her active participation in the activity of the socialist community, which is directed at achieving the lofty and humane aims -- those of preserving peace, preventing the arms race and eliminating the threat of nuclear war contribute to the strengthening the republic's international prestige. Cuba's consistent struggle against imperialism, colonialism, racism and apartheid, for eliminating the onerous debt of the developing countries to the West, for a political settlement in Central America and other regions of the world meets with understanding and support from all honest people of the world.

"We are gratified by the steady broadening and deepening of the relations of fraternal friendship and all-round cooperation between the USSR and Cuba, which is based on the principles of socialist internationalism. This also finds its expression in the joint efforts on the economic front, in strengthening political contacts and in coordinating the whole of our activity in the international arena. The communists, all the working people of revolutionary Cuba can rest assured of the invariable solidarity of the homeland of the October Revolution with the freedom island.

"Please, accept our cordial wishes of happiness and well-being to the people of Cuba on the occasion of the New Year of 1986."

SOKOLOV GREETS CUBAN COUNTERPART ON NATIONAL FETE

PM311935 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Jan 86 First Edition p 1

[Text] To Army General Comrade Raul Castro Ruz, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of the Republic of Cuba

Esteemed Comrade Minister!

On behalf of the USSR Armed Forces and on my own personal behalf, I cordially congratulate you and the entire personnel of the Revolutionary Armed Forces on your national holiday -- Liberation Day. Over the years of people's power the Cuban working people have, under the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba, implemented profound social changes and have achieved impressive results in the development of the economy, science, and culture. Soviet servicemen wish the fraternal Cuban people further successes in socialist building and in strengthening the defense capability of the Republic of Cuba.

With communist greetings

S. Sokolov, Marshal of the Soviet Union, USSR defense minister

CASTRO ADDRESSES NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON ANNIVERSARY

LD311314 Moscow TASS in English 1145 GMT 31 Dec 85

[Text] Havana, December 31 TASS -- The Cuban people are seeing the new year and the 27th anniversary of the victorious revolution with great optimism and a belief in the future, Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and chairman of the State Council and the Council of Ministers of the republic, said in his closing address at the 9th session of the second national assembly of people's power. He stated that the outgoing year, despite many objective difficulties, had been quite successful for the republic. The economic growth rate was 4.8 percent and impressive successes had been achieved by the country in the 27 years since the revolution. Fidel Castro expressed the confidence that the next year and the five-year plan period as a whole would see new accomplishments.

Turning to preparations for the 3rd Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba, the speaker pointed out the great importance of the documents which would be submitted to it. He dwelt on the drafting of the Party program, which is now under way. According to him, it should be a good draft incorporating much of the Cuban experience and would be enriched by Party members and the people as a whole. The integrated socio-economic development plan of Cuba for 1986, approved by the session of the Cuban parliament, Castro continued, is intensive but realistic. He noted the imperative need to improve in every way the organization of production and its efficiency and to tighten labour discipline. The Cuban leader expressed the firm confidence that the country would achieve fresh success on the road of further socio-economic progress.

He stressed that the republic's close and excellent relations with the Soviet Union and the other countries of the socialist community provided a dependable basis for these endeavours and that those relations were growing stronger in an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect. The speaker attached special attention to successes in building up the country's defenses. Using our concepts of war by the entire people and the preparation of the people, the state and society as a whole for such a war, we have created every condition for crushing any possible imperialist aggression against Cuba, Castro said.

The Cuban leader strongly criticised Washington's openly hostile course towards Cuba and stressed that there was something maniacal in the attempts of U.S. imperialism to thwart Cuba's economic development. U.S. imperialism has made quite a few efforts to destroy us but the results of those efforts have turned out to be quite the opposite in every way.

Capitalism, Castro continued, is unable to achieve what we are achieving in education, health care and science. It is socialism that is a truly humanistic social system, under which the problem of man is a problem facing the whole of society and under which the individual is in harmony with society. This is impossible under capitalism. Unlike capitalism, socialism truly has boundless potentialities. It is our duty constantly to perfect socialism. Our system is a manifestation of the whole of the new, progressive human fraternity, and of the integrated strength of society. In the longer term, socialism will emerge victorious from its peaceful competition with capitalism in social, economic and political development.

Castro furthermore dwelt on questions of the repayment of foreign debts by the countries of Latin America and the third world as a whole. Anti-imperialist winds are blowing ever stronger in our hemisphere and every objective factor is working against imperialism. For instance, the unleashing of an act of aggression against such a country as Nicaragua would be tantamount to triggering an explosion in the continent. We of course do not want the USA to make such a mistake and we hope that it will not make it. But we cannot be confident about it.

Castro noted an improvement in Cuba's relations with other Latin American countries and the growing unity of the peoples of the continent. The worst crisis in the history of the hemisphere is contributing a good deal to the rapprochment of the peoples of the continent and to their stronger unity, and leads to political change.

GOVERNOR OF BUENOS AIRES COMMENTS ON RSFSR VISIT

PM031246 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 24 Dec 85 First Edition p 3

[Own correspondent N. Paroyatnikova interview with Alejandro Armendaris, governor of Buenos Aires Province, under the headline "Partners' Ties" -- date and place not given]

[Text] AS SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA has already reported, Alejandro Armendaris, governor of Argentina's Buenos Aires Province, has visited our country at the invitation of the RSFSR Council of Ministers. SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA correspondent N. Paroyatnikova asked the guest to answer a number of questions.

[Paroyatnikova] Senor Armendaris, what is your opinion of the prospects for the development of ties between the leaders of local organs of power in Argentina and the USSR?

[Armendaris] We were received with exceptional sympathy and warmth in Moscow. We had talks with V.K. Gusev, first deputy chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, and met with representatives of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations. We came to the following conclusion: Despite the fact that our countries are far apart both geographically and politically, the prospects for the development of mutual relations are very hopeful. We discussed the possibility of direct exchanges of various delegations between the RSFSR and Buenos Aires -- Argentina's largest province.

[Paroyatnikova] Prominent representatives of Argentine business circles have come with you...

[Armendaris] Yes, we have had many meetings with representatives of Soviet foreign trade associations. For instance, "Energomasheksport" is one of the main partners in the construction of a major power station in the Argentine port of Bahia Blanca. We have agreed on shipments of Soviet turbines and powerful transformers for the power station with this association. We also had talks at "Mashinoeksport" about acquiring Soviet dredges. We are also extremely interested in purchasing equipment for the textile industry. We will send manufactured outputs using this equipment as payment.

We offered our Soviet trading partners shipments of semimanufactures for footwear production. After all, we have good raw materials. This may become a major contract.

It is planned to send a representative delegation of Argentine specialists to Moscow next spring in order to finish this immense work.

SERIKOV COMMENTS ON 1985 EVENTS IN LATIN AMERICA

OW301335 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1500 GMT 29 Dec 85

[Aleksandr Serikov commentary from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Hello, comrades: In the past year attention to South America was drawn not only by natural disasters such as the earthquake in Mexico, the volcanic eruption in Colombia, and the hurricane in Cuba. Primarily we were attracted by important political events.

In 1985 the unity of Latin American countries strengthened as never before in the face of a truly frightful calamity, the enormous foreign debt -- mainly to U.S. banks -- which has reached $360 billion. A number of meetings in South America in 1985, particularly in Havana and Cartagena, have shown that there is a growing opposition in Latin America to the policy of creditors who, through financial blackmail, are attempting to infringe on national sovereignty.

A step in the right direction was taken for normalization in Central America. The Nicaraguan people are continuing their heroic struggle in defense of revolutionary gains. Although the situation in the region is complicated and it has not yet been possible to sign the peace document proposed by the Contadora Group to normalize the situation, support for the noble mission of this group by the Lating American countries has increased.

This kind of solidarity could hardly have been displayed if it were not for the coming to power this year of democratic governments in a number of countries. Under pressure of popular demonstrations, the military dictatorships in Brazil, Uruguay, as well as the rightwing forces in Peru have left the scene. In Argentina the bosses of military juntas were subjected to severe censure. Opposition to the fascist regime in Chile has never been stronger. The struggle against the U.S. puppets in El Salvador is growing.

In Latin America, the November summit meeting in Geneva is being called the most important event of the year. This, in the opinion of observers, gives hope for the future. May 1986 bring peace and happiness to families in Latin America and families of all people in the world.